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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 site stability and safety and to protect the health and wellbeing of Yukoners and the environment.
- The Government of Yukon's role as regulator and enforcement body is to closely monitor the situation at the mine site and, when appropriate, issue directions to Victoria Gold Corp. The Receiver endeavors to implement all the directed measures.
- Yukoners can find the most recent information on our website at yukon.ca.

Additional response (if asked about the Receivership):

- [The Court has authorized the Receiver to attend virtually as a witness before the Legislative Assembly on April 30th, 2025, at 3:00 pm YST.](#)
- We have full confidence in the court process governing all aspects of the Receivership proceedings, including the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers as the Receiver [for Victoria Gold Corp.](#)
- [The benefits of our government requesting the court appoint a Receiver for Victoria Gold Corp include:](#)
 - super priority status to ensure [the government's ability to recover costs for clean-up of the mine site;](#)

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- ensures the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun's involvement in technical decisions;
 - payment to Yukon Energy Corporation, which ensures no effect on rate payer;
 - prioritization of local procurement and hiring, and others.
- The Receiver operates under the advice of its Technical Advisors which are appointed by the court and in consultation with Technical Advisors of both the Yukon government and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections issued a total of seven directions to Victoria Gold since the heap leach failure, five prior to the receiver taking over and two since.

Additional response (if asked about amended Receivership order)

- The Government of Yukon supports the activities and budget included in the amended receivership order, which are the outcome of the court proceedings on April 1, 2025.
- The Government of Yukon supports the amended receivership order from April 1, 2025, which includes an increased budget and borrowing limit, extension to September 30, 2025, for emergency works, asset monetization updates, and information on the sales process timeline, along with the Receiver's third report to the court.

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- The amended Receivership order also includes a letter issued by the Government of Yukon outlining milestones and activities expected to be completed by September 30, 2025.

Additional response (if asked about the future of the mine site):

- The focus at the mine site is on environmental remediation and site safety.
- As outlined in the Receiver's third report, a sales and investment solicitation process is anticipated to start this summer, supervised by the Court, and we have confidence that it will be transparent and fair.

Additional response (if asked about budget):

- (See BN #2)

Additional response (if asked about remediation work):

- The Receiver is now focused on management of spring melt, management and treatment of cyanide impacted water and heap leach stabilization.
- To preserve storage capacity and keep untreated, contaminated water from overtopping the storage ponds during freshet, the Receiver released treated but non-compliant water to Eagle Creek and to locations where water will attenuate prior to reporting to Haggart Creek.
- The Receiver has begun discharging water at a higher volume directly to Haggart Creek. This decision has followed further refinements of

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the water treatment plant and improved consistency of discharge quality.

- This water is anticipated to meet federal water quality standards and be non-toxic to fish and aquatic life. The water is not expected to meet the water licence criteria for copper, cobalt and nitrate.
- The Receiver has also begun discharging water from the spring melt, which does not contain cyanide but may contain elevated suspended solids and metals from contact with waste rock and ore materials. This water is being discharged to Eagle Creek to allow the amount of suspended metals to decrease before reaching Haggart Creek.
- The decision to release treated but non-compliant water is required to maintain safe water levels and to ensure water storage ponds do not overtop during the spring melt. This decision was supported by the Government of Yukon and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- The water treatment operator is continuing to improve treatment capabilities to produce water that is compliant with both federal and territorial authorizations.
- A new water storage pond was completed last week and is now being filled with cyanide impacted water. This pond provides approximately 90,000 m³ of storage capacity.
- An additional storage pond is under construction and will add approximately 110,000 m³ capacity to the site's overall storage in preparation for freshet.

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Additional response (if asked about [the Independent Review Board](#)):

- An Independent Review Board has been established under the government's Guidelines for Mine Waste Management Facilities, and confirmed in the Receiver's Court Order, to investigate the underlying causes of this failure.
- The Board is funded through Receivership, with contracts managed by the Receiver. It operates with autonomy in accordance with its terms of reference, budget, and timeline.
- The Board will determine how and when other parties will be engaged to inform their review.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- On April 28, 2025, the Receiver sought direction from the Court about appearing as a witness before the Legislative Assembly.
- On April 16 and April 25, motions were brought forward related to representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers appearing before the Legislative Assembly.
- On April 1, 2025, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice endorsed the amended Receivership order and approved an increase in the borrowing limit.
- [On June 24, 2024](#), Victoria Gold Corp.'s heap leach facility at the Eagle Gold Mine experienced a failure resulting in the release of contaminants into the environment.

Background:

[Receiver attendance before the Legislative Assembly](#)

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 7, 2025
Last Updated: April 29, 2025

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- The court-appointed Receiver of Victoria Gold Corp. appeared before the Court on Monday, April 28, 2025, to seek an order regarding a motion of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.
- The motion and related demand from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to require that officials from PricewaterhouseCoopers appear as witnesses before Committee of the Whole to answer questions regarding the receivership, operations, and management of the Eagle Gold mine site.
- The Court granted the order [and authorized the Receiver to appear as a witness, where it provided that:](#)
 - the Receiver is authorized and directed to attend virtually before the Legislative Assembly as a witness on April 30, 2025, at 3:00 pm Yukon time or such other date and time that is acceptable to the Receiver.
- [The court order also contains protections for the Receiver and the integrity of the receivership proceedings in relation to its appearance before the Legislative Assembly, in addition to confirming that the standard protections provided to the Receiver in its appointment order are not affected by the April 28, order.](#)
- [The Appearance Order and Endorsement of the Court can be found on the Receiver's website at pwc.com.](#)
- The court order is effective as of 12:01 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time on April 23, 2025.

Receivership

- The Government of Yukon applied to the Court to have a Receiver appointed due to Victoria Gold Corp's non-compliance with government orders required to protect the environment. The company's ability to fund the required remediation was also in question. On August 14, 2024, PricewaterhouseCoopers was appointed as Receiver over Victoria Gold Corp's assets.
- On April 1, 2025, the court approved amendments to the Receivership order to allow for Phase 3 at the Eagle Gold Mine. This included an increase to the

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Receiver's borrowing limit to \$220 million, to fund remediation and other work until September 30th, 2025.

- The Receiver is accountable to the Court and reports to the Court periodically. To date, the Receiver's reports have been provided on October 1, 2024, November 28, 2024, and March 25, 2025.
- The Receiver posts regular site progress updates to provide information on the site and remediation efforts. All information is publicly available on the Receiver's website.

Procurement

- The Receiver manages procurement for the site and as an officer of the court must ensure funds are spent responsibly.
- The interim funding agreement between the Government of Yukon and the Receiver **emphasized** the importance of providing local benefits to the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, its development corporation, and Mayo and the Yukon's residents and businesses.
- The Receiver provides regular reports to the Yukon government on procurement and local benefits for Yukoners.

Security (also See BN #2)

- The costs of undertaking the remediation at the Eagle Gold Mine are the responsibility of Victoria Gold Corp.
- Victoria Gold Corp. furnished security to the Government of Yukon for \$104 million, as required by its licences and the regulatory legislation in an amount determined at the time to be sufficient to cover remediation, reclamation, and final closure costs in respect of the Eagle Gold mine.
- **Any new** operator **would have to** furnish adequate financial security in favour of the Government of Yukon to cover the environmental liability, in accordance with the statutes and the licensing regime.

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Environment and Response Activity

- The heap leach failure released significant contaminants into the environment, including cyanide and heavy metals.
- The Receiver continues to [implement](#) a comprehensive environmental monitoring program to look for effects on and off site. This includes groundwater monitoring [onsite](#) and surface water monitoring onsite, in Haggart and Lynx Creeks, and the South McQuesten River.
- The Department of Environment operates long-term water quality monitoring stations upstream and downstream of the mine.
- The Receiver is working to ensure that on-site infrastructure and water treatment facilities are sufficient to protect the environment.
- Groundwater interception is underway with sump construction and production well installation. These systems are required to capture existing groundwater flow paths reporting to surface waters and to eliminate future impacts.
- Significant work remains to be completed including water management and treatment to [manage](#) spring freshet, and investigations into stability of the heap leach facility. Preparation for spring construction projects to meet regulatory requirements for physical and chemical stability at the mine site also remains.
- All emergency work packages required under the first Court Order were completed by the Receiver, including the construction of the safety berm and water storage ponds, and the installation of groundwater monitoring and interception wells.
- Public updates are posted on the Government of Yukon's Eagle Gold Mine web page, including water quality in Haggart Creek.

Coordinated Response

- The Government of Yukon response team [meets](#) regularly with the technical staff of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and their technical consultants to ensure

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transparency and alignment in response efforts and inform decisions on remediation.

- The response team also meets regularly with the Government of Canada to provide updates and coordinate our responses.

Independent Review

- An Independent Review Board was launched under the Government of Yukon's Guidelines for Mine Waste Management Facilities to provide an expert review of the heap leach failure.
- More information about the Board Members can be found on Yukon.ca
- 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.
- We have not decided whether an inquiry will also be established under the *Public Inquiries Act*.
- If the Office of the Auditor General decides to conduct an audit, we will provide information and participate in response to any related requests.

Mine Site Staff

- The Receiver has provided ongoing employment for approximately 150 people at the mine site. This is possible due to the Receivership and funding provided by the Government of Yukon for the Receivership.

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 7, 2025
Last Updated: April 29, 2025

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- The Court determined that the appointment of a Receiver was better than allowing the company time to start its own insolvency process, which would not have given employees greater rights or entitlements than what they received under the Receivership.
- The Receiver ensured a two-month extension for applications under the federal Wage Earner Protection Program, which provides up to \$8,500 for terminated employees.
- The *Wage Earner Protection Program Act* is federal legislation that provides for payment of eligible wages owing to workers whose employer filed for bankruptcy or became subject to Receivership.
- We made efforts to support Victoria Gold workers who were terminated, as they transitioned to new jobs or careers. This included information about mental health support and access to labour resources.

Heap leach failure

- The Eagle Gold Mine was a large, conventional open pit and heap leach gold operation in north-central Yukon, in the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun's Traditional Territory
- On June 24, 2024, the heap leach facility failed, releasing about four million tonnes of ore. Approximately two million tonnes, including cyanide solution, left containment, and flowed into the Dublin Gulch Valley.
- In the weeks that followed, the Government of Yukon issued Inspector's Directions to address the failure and environmental risks related to water management and treatment, physical stability, and monitoring.
- The company's non-compliance led the Government of Yukon to undertake critical actions, but we were faced with health and safety constraints.
- On August 2, 68 deceased fish were found in Haggart Creek downstream of the mine water effluent discharged by Victoria Gold Corp.

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Spring 2025

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Resources

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

April 30, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

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Eagle Gold Mine

Finance & Energy,
Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

Funding for the Eagle Gold Mine Response

- In 2024-25, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice approved the Government of Yukon to loan up to \$105 million to the court-appointed Receiver for the Victoria Gold Corp.
- 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.
- On April 1, 2025, the court approved an increase to the maximum amount that the Receiver is authorized to borrow from the Government of Yukon from \$105 million to \$220 million.
- For 2025-26, loan advances from the Government of Yukon to the Receiver for Victoria Gold Corporation will total \$115 million for the period of April 1 to September 30 to support the response at the Eagle Gold Mine.
- The \$115 million falls within the \$118 million projected in additional loan advances as part of the 2025-26 budget.
- This will increase the loan receivable balance from \$105 million in 2024-25 to \$220 million in 2025-26.
- In addition to the funding advances from the Government of Yukon, \$17 million of funding will be provided to the Receiver from cash on hand and through the realization and monetization of non-core assets.

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- The total budget for the period of April 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025, referred to as the Phase 3 period in the Receiver's court filings, is \$132 million. This will be funded by \$115 million provided by Yukon government and \$17 million from the Receivers cash on hand.
- Financial security for the Eagle Gold Mine totaled \$104 million. In 2024-25 the Government of Yukon has accessed \$55 million of these bonds. These funds were recorded as deferred revenue. 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.

** See "Financial Summary" on page 7 for further details on the financial impacts of funding for the Receiver.*

Impact of expenditures on the surplus

- The Government of Yukon has included the loans to the Receiver in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources' O&M appropriation, which is necessary to disburse the funds.
- The loan to the Receiver is secured by a court-ordered super-priority charge and is recorded as a loan receivable, offsetting the impact of the O&M appropriation and resulting in no immediate impact on the surplus.
- Interest earned on the loan is recorded as revenue to Government of Yukon, which has a positive impact on the budgetary surplus.
- If the mine or its assets are sold, the Government of Yukon is expected to be repaid on a priority basis. Full repayment would clear the loan.

Interest on loans to the Receiver

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- Interest applies to all loan advances to the Receiver at a rate of 9 per cent.
- An estimated \$3 million of interest will be accrued in 2024-25 on the \$105 million advanced to the Receiver in 2024-25.
- \$9.5 million in interest is forecast to be accrued for 2025-26, which is based on the additional \$118 million in funding advances provisioned in the 2025-26 Main Estimates.
- Accrued interest for a year is not simply equal to the total advances multiplied by the interest rate. Advances are provided periodically throughout the fiscal year, rather than as a lump sum. Interest is calculated daily and compounded monthly as per the terms of the loan.
- The interest is recorded as revenue in the budget and added to the loan receivable balance. This approach is per the accounting principles and financial management policies under the Financial Administration Act.
- The interest accrued for the advances to the Receiver is subject to the same court-ordered super-priority charge as the advances themselves, meaning the interest would be repaid on a priority basis if the mine or its assets are sold.
- Under the terms of the loan agreement, repayment to the Government of Yukon occurs first, toward any outstanding interest, fees, and costs; and second toward any outstanding principal amounts.
- The interest rate of 9 percent is consistent with the rates of borrowing undertaken by Victoria Gold Corporation prior to the heap leach failure

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and also reflects the appropriate level of risk associated with this type of loan advance.

Impact on other companies who are owed funds (creditors)

- In August 2024, the Ontario Superior Court authorized the Receiver for Victoria Gold Corporation to borrow \$50 million from the Yukon government. This limit was raised to \$105 million in December 2024 and further increased to \$220 million in April 2025.
- The Yukon government, as the lender, was granted a super-priority charge, meaning it will be repaid on a priority-basis if the mine or its assets are sold. Other creditors must work with the Receiver for repayment of their outstanding debts.

Use of Eagle Gold Mine financial security / surety bonds

- Financial security for the Eagle Gold Mine totaled \$104 million. In 2024-25 the Government of Yukon has accessed \$55 million of these bonds.
- The remaining balance of the security held for the Eagle Gold mine is \$49 million. The Government of Yukon was granted approval from the courts to access these funds when payments are advanced to the Receiver in 2025-26. These funds have been received from the sureties and are being held by the Government of Yukon.
- The cash from the security is not reflected as a recovery at this time. If a transaction is approved by the Court and supported by the Government of Yukon that involves a restart of operations at the mine site or

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liquidation of major assets, all payments made to any parties would be subject to an Order of the Court.

How long will the \$118 million included in 2025-26 Budget last?

- Budget 2025-26 includes \$118 million in O&M funding for the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to support critical environmental protection work at the Eagle Gold Mine.
 - The court report identifies that there are non-core assets that can be monetized and used to offset the cost of emergency work.
 - As non-core assets are monetized, the amount of funding provided as a loan by the Government of Yukon is anticipated to be reduced.
 - This is a dynamic situation with multiple factors that could impact costs in the future. The Government of Yukon will continue to monitor the situation closely to ensure we protect the environment effectively while managing financial impacts responsibly.
-

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.
 - The Second Supplementary Estimates for 2024-25 and the Main Estimates for 2025-26 include additional funding to support the response to the heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold Mine.
-

Background:

- Yukon.ca is regularly updated with information bulletins to inform the public about the Eagle Gold Mine heap leach failure's current situation.
-

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- For additional background, see Corporate Note “Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts”, #25 in the Department of Finance’s session binder).

Interest on loans to the Receiver

- The estimated interest on loan is recorded as revenue in the fiscal year in which it is earned and is added to the balance of the loan receivable.
- Interest on the loan is payable to the Government of Yukon General Revenue Fund at such a time that there may be a sale of the mine or its assets.
- The interest earned is estimated to be \$3 million for 2024-25 and \$9.5 million for 2025-26.

Surety bond

- The cash from the security is not reflected as a recovery at this time.
- Funds received from the surety bond (\$55 million) have been advanced to the Receiver.
- The surety bonds have been drawn down and are being held by the Government of Yukon.
- Future draws from the remaining bond balance of \$48.7 million will be advanced to the Receiver as required.

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Eagle Gold Mine

Spring 2025

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Mines and Resources

Financial Summary

	2024-25 Supp #1	2024-25 Supp #2	2025-26 Mains	Total	Notes
Amounts appropriated (EMR)					
O&M Expense (Vote 1)	50,000	55,000	118,000	223,000	1
Interest on loan revenue (Vote 5)	-	3,044	9,500	12,544	
Cash impact on Yukon government					
Cash from YG to the Receiver	50,000	55,000	115,000	220,000	
Cash to YG from the surety bonds	-	55,000	48,742	103,742	2
Net cash disbursements YG	50,000	-	69,258	119,258	
Impact on balance sheet accounts					
Loan receivable (YG asset)	50,000	55,000	115,000	220,000	
Interest on loan receivable (YG asset)	-	3,044	9,500	12,544	
Deferred revenue (YG liability)	-	55,000	48,742	103,742	3

Notes

1. The 2024-25 Supp #2 shows an O&M increase in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources of \$51.8 million as the department also had \$3.2 million in other reductions.
2. It is anticipated that Yukon government will have received \$103.7 million from surety bonds in 2024-25 and 2025-26 for Eagle Gold Mine response work.
3. Yukon government anticipates to carry a deferred revenue balance of \$103.7 million from the surety bonds until a decision is made by the courts. If the courts determine Yukon government can retain the funds, these funds will be recognized as a recovery. If the courts make another determination, Yukon government may have to repay the balance (or a portion of the balance).

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

April 30, 2025

Deputy Minister, Energy Mines and Resources

Date Approved

Jessica Schultz

April 30, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date Approved

Prepared for Minister Silver and Minister Streicker
Department of Finance
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: March 10, 2025
Last Updated: April 29, 2025

Session Briefing Note

EMR Permitting

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are aware of the backlog of placer mining and quartz exploration projects seeking permitting approvals. We are taking decisive measures to ensure that projects continue to advance.
- Over a year ago, the Mineral Resources Branch began work to better understand where we could find efficiencies within the mineral regulatory framework, including the decision document stage under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*, and when required, the Yukon Water Board.
- Last fall, we engaged with our assessment and regulatory partners to look at prioritizing projects whose permits are expiring soon, as well as seeking long-term solutions to better manage large volumes of projects.

Additional response:

- We are continuing to monitor the number of mining and exploration project applications and timelines for issuing Decision Documents to ensure that regulatory reviews proceed smoothly.
- Additionally, the Mineral Resources Branch is bringing back experienced staff to temporarily dedicate additional resources to project applications currently under review.
- Proponents can contact the Mineral Resources Branch for updates on their Class 1 notification and are encouraged to reach out to their Mining Recorder's Office if they have any questions.

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- For Class 3 and 4 placer mining and quartz exploration projects, proponents can get updates via the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) and the Yukon Water Board's online registries.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The mining industry has been engaging with the Government of Yukon on the slowdown of the assessment and regulatory processes for several months, there is an over-average number of projects requiring renewals and approvals in 2025 and 2026. (See BN #111)

Background:

- As of March 28, 2025, there are 45 Decision Documents currently in consultation with affected First Nations.
- In addition to Decision Documents, there are approximately 150 Class 1 Notifications currently in consultation with affected First Nations. The average time to issue a Class 1 notification is 49 days once consultation has begun. Projects currently in the system have been pending for an average of 86 days.
- As of March 2025, there are potentially 3 quartz programs and approximately 14 placer operations whose permits have or will soon expire that may not receive permitting in time for the upcoming season.
- Projects that were not submitted to YESAB in a reasonable timeframe to allow for the assessment and permitting process to take place may not be receiving a permit in time for the upcoming season. Both YESAB and the Yukon Water Board processes have minimum timelines set out in legislation that cannot be shortened.
- Energy, Mines and Resources encourages mining operators to submit to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board well before the expiry of their current licenses or start of their operating season to receive a license.

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Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

April 14, 2025

Deputy Minister
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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

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Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

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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.

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- 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).

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- 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,

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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

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Regional Land Use Planning

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are advancing regional land use planning in collaboration with Yukon First Nations, communities and stakeholders.
- We have provided our response to the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan and will review the Final Recommended Plan when it is finalized by the Planning Commission. (See BN #4)
- We are working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding to advance regional land use planning in the Beaver River planning region.
- We are at the pre-planning stage with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kluane First Nation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Teslin Tlingit Council.

Additional response:

- We continue to work with First Nations partners to collaboratively implement the North Yukon and Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plans.
- Together with the Government of Canada and the Council of Yukon First Nations, we are reviewing the 2024 Umbrella Final Agreement funding to ensure there is enough for plan implementation and conformity checks for proposed projects.
- We remain committed to the goals and priorities set out by the Yukon Forum Regional Land Use Planning Working Group to advance land

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Regional Land Use Planning

Energy, Mines and Resources

use planning in a way that honours the Final Agreements.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukon First Nations, the mining industry, and environmental stakeholders are interested in the status and progress of regional land use planning and the funding available for these processes.
- There are questions regarding who conducts conformity checks after plan approval.

Background:

- The process to complete regional land use planning on the Traditional Territories of Yukon First Nations is defined in Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements. These processes can involve the participation of multiple First Nations governments.
- The Final Agreements and the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* outline the continued responsibility of Regional Land Use Planning Commissions to conduct conformity checks for proposed projects in areas with approved land use plans.
- During the development of regional land use plans, planning commissions are funded through the Umbrella Final Agreement federal implementation funding.
- There are no Chapter 11 sub-regional or district planning processes underway in the Yukon. The Beaver River land use planning process is not a Chapter 11 process; it comes out of the 2018 Intergovernmental Agreement between the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Government of Yukon. (See BN #95)

Approved by:

Paul Moore

January 21, 2025

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 17, 2025
Last Updated:

Session Briefing Note

Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is developing new minerals legislation and new public lands legislation in collaboration with Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous groups.
- New minerals and public lands legislation will improve our regulatory system, protect the environment, uphold Aboriginal and Treaty rights and strengthen the economy.
- The heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold Mine has elevated the priority of the work to create new minerals legislation.
- Work is ongoing to develop a recommended framework for new minerals legislation, with representatives meeting with increased frequency to maximize efficiency.

Additional response:

- While this is a government-to-government process, the Steering Committee has been engaging with industry and environmental non-governmental organizations throughout this process.
- [The committee has met, and will continue to meet, with these stakeholders to discuss the components contemplated for the new regime.](#)
- The important insights and perspectives received from First Nation governments, industry representatives, environmental organizations, and the public will inform the next phases of the legislative development process for both new minerals and new lands legislation.

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Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

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Context — this may be an issue because:

- The desire to see new minerals and public lands legislation developed has been a longstanding interest of Yukon First Nation governments stemming from commitments in the 2003 Devolution Transfer Agreement.

Background:

- As of January 2025, Energy, Mines and Resources has committed \$1.7M to support the participation of First Nations governments, transboundary Indigenous groups, and stakeholders in the development of new minerals and lands legislation in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Minerals

- A Steering Committee for new minerals legislation was created in September 2021, which includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous groups.
- A 90-day public engagement on key policy issues concluded in May 2023. A What We Heard report was released on August 27, 2024.
- The Steering Committee has shifted to a smaller working group to advance its work on a recommended legislative framework at a rapid pace. This working group meets approximately every two weeks.
- Government of Yukon officials also met with selected representatives from industry and environmental non-governmental organizations in the Fall and Winter of 2024 to discuss key concepts in the framework. Officials will continue to seek input from these sectors.
- Significant changes to mineral disposition under current legislation are being proposed including a deferred-rights model. In this model there will be an established decision point prior to granting mineral rights which provides affected First Nations with the opportunity to be consulted before deciding.
- The draft framework proposes enhancing and codifying in legislation how First Nations will be involved in key decisions when they are affected by that decision.

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Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

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This includes potential approaches to incorporate meaningful First Nation participation in key decisions.

Public Lands

- Work on new public lands legislation has been ongoing since 2020 and in spring 2022, the Government of Yukon carried out Indigenous consultation and public engagement to understand the views and interests for new legislation.
- In November 2022, a Steering Committee was established to direct legislative development that includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous groups and governments.
- The Steering Committee identified key policy issues and developed policy options for the new public lands legislation in 2023.
- Indigenous consultation and public engagement on key policy issues and options was conducted from May through August 2024 and a What We Heard report is currently in preparation.
- During the three-month public engagement on public lands legislation over 200 people attended public open houses held in most communities throughout the Yukon and approximately 100 people completed the online survey to share perspectives on the legislative options.
- A What We Heard report is being prepared and will be released this Spring.
- This work will lead to a modernized land management system that respects Aboriginal and Treaty Rights which balances a wide range of interests and values, including the use, sale and lease of public land.

Approved by:

Heather Mills

Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

April 29, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Yukon's growing population and increased electrification of our economy have significantly increased electrical demand and requires new sources of reliable, affordable, and renewable energy.
- The Yukon– British Columbia Grid Connect project could allow the Yukon to maintain high levels of renewable energy over the long term.
- The project is large and complex with infrastructure that crosses multiple traditional territories and provincial/territorial borders.
- Yukon Development Corporation is advancing a phased approach to explore connecting the Yukon and BC electrical grids, including technical feasibility and options, potential cost and funding opportunities, and partnership opportunities with First Nations, industries, and other governments.
- Connecting the Yukon to British Columbia's electrical grid increases our power supply, reduces greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use and provides a nation building opportunity that will advance arctic security, and foster shared growth, prosperity, and reconciliation.

Additional response: In Our Clean Future, the Government of Yukon committed to a target of 97 per cent of electricity on the Yukon's main grid being generated from renewable sources.

- By increasing the Yukon's renewable electricity supply we are supporting our ambitious electrification goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Yukon's largest emission sources: transportation, heating and mining
- Connecting to British Columbia's electrical grid could increase the Yukon's power supply to support sustainable critical mineral

development in the Yukon. Critical minerals are important for the global transition away from fossil fuels.

- Yukon Development Corporation has secured \$40M through Government of Canada's Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund and contributed \$13M from the Yukon Development Corporation Fund, for a total budget \$53M over five years.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Energy and grid issues are popular topics regularly covered by local media.
- During recent sittings of the Legislative Assembly, opposition MLAs criticized the government's renewable energy plans and questioned its ability to meet increasing energy demands

Background:

- In 2019, Midgard Consulting produced the 'Yukon-British Columbia Interconnection Development Plan.' The report considered the feasibility of a grid connection in the context of serving new mining loads such as the Casino Mine and offers costs and risks from a high level description of the proposed project.
- In 2022, approximately 92 per cent of the electricity on the main grid was obtained from renewable energy sources.
- Renewable electricity, especially hydroelectricity, accounted for approximately 80 per cent of the Yukon's total electricity generation in 2022. Over 98% of the electricity generated in BC is from renewable sources.
- At the March and September 2023 Yukon Forum meetings, leadership discussed the potential to connect the Yukon and British Columbia grids. This discussion represents the beginning of the governments' collaboration on the project.

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Spring 2025

Yukon-BC Grid Connect

Yukon Development
Corporation

- The grid connect project was also presented at the Yukon First Nations' Energy Summit in October 2023 and was discussed at the Regional Energy and Resource Table meetings in January and April 2024.
- 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-feasibility and engagement for this project. Canada announced this funding, pending final due diligence in September 2024 and a Contribution Agreement was signed between Yukon Development Corporation and Government of Canada on February 14, 2025.
- Pursuant to the *Yukon Development Corporation Act*, all money received by the corporation is deposited in the Yukon Development Corporation Fund [S.Y. 2002, c. 236, s.16]. The Fund is used to pay expenses incurred by the corporation in carrying out its affairs under the Act. The investment of money by the corporation is subject to the *Financial Administration Act*. The Public Accounts of the Government of Yukon include reporting on the Fund.
- Work on the feasibility of the grid connect project will require the completion of a new conceptual design with updated costing. One of the new actions added to Our Clean Future includes a commitment to complete an updated conceptual design and alternative route analysis for the Yukon-British Columbia grid connect project by the end of 2025.

Approved by:

Gary Gazankas

President, Yukon Development Corporation

March 24, 2025

Date approved

EMR #8/ YDC # 14
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Micro-generationEnergy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Recommended response:

- The micro-generation program has seen strong uptake and popularity throughout the Yukon since it was launched.
- Yukoners have installed renewable energy generating systems at such a high rate that we have achieved our 2030 micro-generation target of 7 megawatts seven years ahead of schedule.
- We have extended the pause until January 2026, as well as expanded it to include the entire Yukon Integrated System. During this time, we are working with public utilities to study the impacts of variable generation on the grid and identify solutions to ensure grid reliability.
- The first phase of the research is complete and validates the need for the pause and the expansion to the entire Yukon; the second phase of the research is looking at mitigation measures / solutions and will be completed in 2025.

Additional response:

- During the program pause, we are making technical improvements to allow existing micro-generation systems to be more resilient to frequency changes on the grid, as well as completing a technical study to inform next steps.
- YEC will be commissioning a utility scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in 2025 and anticipates that the BESS will further support the Yukon Integrated System (YIS) and the existing micro generation already installed. This will be carefully examined and

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information collected will also be included in the second phase technical study to help inform us of next steps.

- There is 10.4 megawatts of direct current renewable energy generating capacity installed.
- The Government of Yukon and the territory's electricity utilities are working together to ensure our electricity supply is reliable, affordable and sustainable.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The micro-generation program was originally paused for six months in December 2023, and a further six months in June 2024. Most recently, the pause was extended in January 2025 for another year and expanded to cover all of the Yukon Integrated System.

Background:

- Our Clean Future (action E10) targets 7 megawatts of installed renewable electricity capacity by 2030 through micro-generation. As of January 2025, there were 981 micro-generators connected to the Yukon utility grid with 10.4 megawatts direct current capacity. (See BN #37)
- Under the micro-generation program, eight First Nations governments and five First Nations Development Corporations have installed 135 renewable energy-generating systems on institutional, commercial and residential buildings throughout the Yukon.
- The micro-generation program launched in October 2013 and is designed to allow Yukoners to connect their home or business renewable electrical generation systems to the grid.

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- In summer 2023, Yukon's electric utilities attributed grid disruptions on the Yukon Integrated System to the high number of micro-generation systems.
 - Yukon Development Corporation and Energy, Mines and Resources have responded to the utilities' concerns in three ways: 1) commencing a technical grid study; 2) agreeing to pause pre-approvals for the microgeneration program, and; 3) changing solar PV system inverter settings.
 - Energy Branch officials are working with utilities, industry, and micro-generation participants to change inverter settings. This will allow micro-generation systems to be more resilient to changes in frequency on the grid with the intention of improving grid stability.
 - As of January 2025, there are 15 buildings that had received prior approval from both YG and ATCO to proceed with their projects. These approvals have been extended until this spring due to a number of them being delayed with the early snowfall last fall. They will be installed with the new inverter settings designed to support improved grid stability.
 - During the pause Yukon government and ATCO Electric Yukon will continue to accept applications in communities not connected to the Yukon's Integrated Grid. These include Watson Lake, Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Beaver Creek, and Old Crow.
 - The technical study is in progress. The first phase of the study was completed and validated the grid events the utilities had experienced, as well as the need for mitigation measures for additional renewables. It also recommended not adding any additional distributed solar generation to the Yukon Integrated System at this time.
 - A second phase of the study focused on modelling mitigation measures is underway. Early results suggest that with the anticipated new diesel generation, inverter settings changes and the grid-scale battery in place, the
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Development Corporation

stability issues may be corrected.

- The study is expected to be completed in the latter part of 2025. The study will assist in determining the next steps for the program.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

February 26, 2025

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Gary Gazankas

February 25, 2025

President,
Yukon Development Corporation

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Resource Roads Regulation

#9

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The new *Resource Roads Regulation* came into force on January 27, 2025. The regulation provides a strong framework for how resource access roads are built, operated and reclaimed in the Yukon.
- The regulation will manage newly constructed resource roads going forward; changing the status of any existing public road will require a mandatory public engagement process.
- The regulation provides for access controls on resource roads that will improve the safety on worksites and help mitigate concerns around fish and wildlife.

Additional response:

- We continue to work with Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups and governments as well as industry during implementation.
- We also commit to reviewing the *Resource Roads Regulation* as part of our ongoing work to advance a new *Public Lands Act*.
- A What We Heard report on the second round of public engagement and First Nation consultation for the *Resource Roads Regulation* was released in August 2024.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Access management for resource industries has been a challenge for many years in the Yukon because of a lack of regulatory tools for resource roads.

Session Briefing Note

Resource Roads Regulation

#9

Fall 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Environmental groups along with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups and governments have expressed concerns regarding a lack of regulation, and unauthorized roads and trails.

Background:

- Longstanding challenges associated with resource roads in the Yukon include:
 - ensuring resource roads are decommissioned at the end of service life to prevent permanent public access to the hinterland; and
 - managing access for multiple and varied users on permitted roads.
- The new regulation provides safeguards to enforce restoration and reclamation of resource roads by enabling the collection of security.
- Enforcement of access restrictions are carried out by Natural Resource Officers. Permittees are required to take reasonable measures to restrict access, as deemed appropriate on a road-by-road basis (signage, mandatory reporting of unauthorized users, gates and staffed gatehouses are all potential measures).
- The Government of Yukon completed an initial 60-day public engagement and First Nations consultation in July 2018. A second round of public engagement and First Nation consultation occurred from March to May 2023.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work with Yukon First Nations through a Resource Roads Regulation Implementation Working Group.

Approved by:

Heather Mills

January 24, 2025

Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Lot Sales and Support for
Housing and Development**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:**Lots released for sale in 2025**

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

Lots released for sale in 2024

In the Whitehorse Area:

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

In Yukon Communities

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

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Housing and Development**Energy, Mines and
Resources

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

Lots released for sale in 2023:

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

Support for housing and development:

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

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Housing and Development**Energy, Mines and
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restoration permit, including mitigating slope stability, managing any contamination, bonding and removing existing buildings.

- The Government of Yukon retains the right to repurchase the lot if development does not proceed.
- Lot 1096 in Whistle Bend has been sold to the Northern Community Land Trust Society to start the construction of over 30 units as affordable home ownership.
- Several significant projects in the City of Whitehorse are in the planning, design or construction stage. With our colleagues at Community Services, we are supporting the rezoning of Lots 519 and 520 in Copper Ridge for future residential development and working through subdivision for Range Point.
- We continue to work towards our 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement commitments on the lottery reform. Public engagement wrapped up in August 2024 and we are working towards having the changes in place before the 2025 spring land lotteries. (See BN # 11)

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

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Spring 2025

Lot Sales and Support for Housing and Development

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

Development and sale process

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

Additional work to support housing

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

How lots are priced

- Lot pricing is determined by the *Yukon Lands Act* and *Lands Regulation*.
- In following our legislation, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources approves the classification of a lot (e.g., residential, country residential, industrial, or special).
- In many cases, a lot's classification determines the sale process and approach to pricing.

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- For instance, lots classified as 'residential' are sold at development cost and through a lottery process.
- Lots that are sold at market value are appraised by a private 3rd party appraisal company.
- Lots that are sold at development cost are priced based on the cost of development from Community Services.

Land Title Transfer Process

- Land Management Branch (LMB) accepts building safety approvals from municipalities and Yukon Government to meet building commitment conditions in Agreement for Sale contracts.
- In 2022-23 the LMB worked with the City of Whitehorse and followed their recommendation (from the Housing Land Development Advisory Committee) to apply the third plumbing inspection and electrical rough-in, as the appropriate stage for approval. This also includes framing, insulation and vapour barrier inspection.
- Approval at this earlier stage ensures that safety and building standard measures are met for new buildings, while also allowing for efficient land title transfers to new home purchasers.
- Payments for Agreements for Sale are made over a multi-year period and final payments are due before title is transferred.

Approved By:**Paul Moore****April 16, 2025**

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 7, 2025
Last Updated: April 16, 2025

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Session Briefing Note

Land Lottery Reform

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are bringing forward changes to reform the land lottery system that will simplify the process, reduce the use of proxies and improve measures for people returning lots when they are unable to meet requirements.
- These changes are in progress and will be in place for the 2025 land lotteries.
- We continue to develop new public land legislation with First Nations at the Successor Resource Legislation Steering Committee to address the legislative aspects of the land lottery system. (See BN #6)

Additional response:

- We completed public engagement for land lottery reform in August 2024 as part of the broader engagement on a new Public Lands Act.
- The What We Heard from [this recent](#) Public Lands Act engagement will be released publicly once it is ready.
- We continue to work closely with the City of Whitehorse and Yukon communities to develop and release lots. (See BN #10)

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Section 4F of the Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA) sets out a commitment to: “reform the land lottery system through a process that includes public engagement.”

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Land Lottery Reform

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- On November 21, 2024 Yukon government issued a press release outlining the proposed changes.

Background:

- The sale of public land is administered through the *Lands Act*, via the *Financial Administration Act*.
- Under the *Lands Act*, the *Lands Regulations* speaks to how residential land lotteries are implemented with the intention that each lot would be purchased by individuals for the purpose of developing their own home.
- Recent trends suggest that builders apply for multiple residential lots through proxies.
- Non-legislative opportunities to reform the land lottery system identified through the public engagement and jurisdictional scan work include:
 - Restrict land lotteries so that successful candidates can only re-apply after a certain number of years.
 - Allow for conditional lot sales, for example to enable the Government of Yukon to suspend interest payments until successful applicants who have signed an Agreement for Sale can access their lots.
 - Allow for variance in Agreement for Sale terms so that applicants can receive more of their 20% down payment back for unforeseen issues (e.g. health emergency).
 - Make the process to collect and return deposits for lottery applications more efficient.

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Land Lottery Reform

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

Heather Mills

April 14, 2025

Acting Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Animal Protection and
Control Act
Implementation**Environment
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The *Animal Protection and Control Act* is a modern framework that guides all aspects of animal protection and control in the Yukon.
- The Act regulates animal businesses and rescues, clarifies ownership of exotic pets, and creates tools to address feral and high-risk animal species to better protect Yukoners and the environment.
- This includes new provisions that provide protection for feral animals from abuse such as feral horses or feral cats.
- The Act and regulations were developed following extensive engagement and reflect Yukoners' values with respect to animal care and control.

Additional response:

- Changes under the new legislation include new permit and inspection requirements for animal-related businesses such as rescues, boarding facilities, and pet stores. [Department staff are in the process of contacting business owners to begin the permitting process.](#)
- The new legislation creates opportunities for partnership agreements with Yukon First Nations and municipal governments to establish deputy enforcement officers and caretakers to deliver education and enforcement that is community specific.
- This legislation is shared between the Departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources. Officers in the Agriculture Branch

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Control Act
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respond to welfare and control concerns regarding livestock, and officers in the Animal Health Unit respond for all other species.

Third response:

- Education and information sharing are cornerstones in the implementation of this new legislation.
- In July 2024, the Department of Environment hired a Program Manager to support officers in both responsible departments to inform Yukoners of the new requirements under the Act.
- The Department is working with stakeholder groups in the Yukon to help train officers to better understand the unique complexities of caring for animals in the north, such as sled dogs or horses used for outfitting.

Fourth response (Implementation):

- The Departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources understand the unique needs and specific concerns of animal care and control in Yukon communities.
- A 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not effective for Yukon communities. We are working with communities to understand their individual needs.
- We also appreciate that local resources are limited and that communities have different ideas of how they would like the Act to be enforced and implemented within their jurisdiction. Our approach is flexible to accommodate the unique views and values in Yukon communities.

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- We anticipate that additional resources will be required to operationalize agreements with local governments, including for training, equipment and animal caretakers.
- Existing resources within the Animal Health Unit and Agriculture Branch will be allocated to priority areas of work in the first phase of implementation. Allocation of resources will be reassessed as we better understand community needs.
- The Animal Health Unit's existing animal care programs support the implementation of the new Act, these include:
 - The Community Dog Care initiative that supports community leaders and volunteer organizations to organize spay, neuter and vaccination clinics in Yukon communities;
 - the Community Dog Spay program, which offsets the cost of dog spay surgery for dogs from Yukon communities. Since 2016 the fund has supported more than 950 surgeries; and
 - the canine ID program that gives collars with ID tags to dogs in rural Yukon communities, encouraging responsible dog ownership across the Yukon.
- The Agriculture Branch's Livestock Health Program and Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) programs provide support and funding for care, management, and overall health of livestock. This includes the Veterinary Services Program, which is administered by the Animal Health Unit with funding from Sustainable CAP.

Session Briefing Note**Animal Protection and
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Resources

-
- The Department of Environment and Department of Energy, Mines and Resources will continue to work closely with First Nations and Yukon communities to ensure that animals across the territory are properly cared for and protected.
-

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about the support available to rural communities to enable local enforcement by delegated officers.
 - There may be questions about what the Government of Yukon is doing to enforce the new requirements when there have been complaints on social media about some individuals who operate animal related businesses in Yukon and feral horses.
-

Background:

- The Act was passed in the fall of 2022 and there was extensive engagement with stakeholders to finalize the regulations which were brought into effect on April 4, 2024. A What We Heard report was published summarizing feedback received on the compliance and enforcement framework, permitting commercial facilities, animal control, cosmetic surgeries, standards of care and ownership of animals.
 - Changes under the new legislation include new permit and inspection requirements for animal-related businesses such as rescues, boarding facilities, and pet stores. These businesses have until April 5, 2025 to obtain their permits. Permitting work is ongoing and staff from both the Department of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources are available to assist with the process and arrange initial inspections.
 - The legislation enshrines care and control of livestock animals specifically for the agriculture sector. This provides a framework to raise and produce livestock in Yukon through national industry codes of care for livestock animals.
-

Session Briefing Note**Animal Protection and
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- Under the legislation, Eurasian boar and all hybrids are prohibited and considered a high-risk species in the Yukon. Staff of the Agriculture Branch have obtained an inventory of all Eurasian boar that exist. These are being depopulated from the Yukon through the options of relocating outside of the Yukon, and by harvesting at slaughter size to avoid wasting Yukon grown meat, with appropriate compensation.

Approved by:**Dennis Berry**

Deputy Minister of Environment

April 1, 2025

Date approved

Paul Moore

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

March 31, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Agricultural Land Development and Leases

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are working to make agricultural land available to Yukoners by zoning new agricultural lands and leasing or selling these lands.
- Our work supports a net gain of agriculture land over time. There has been no net loss of agriculture land to other land uses nor a conversion of agriculture land to non-agriculture use.
- We promote agriculture land use through programs and incentives for farmers under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, including for Environmental Farm Plans, practices for soil conservation and water management techniques.

Additional response:

- Leases can decrease barriers to entry, support the expansion of current farming operations, support responsible land clearing practices and help to ensure that lands continue to be used for agriculture.
- There are around 30,000 hectares of land dedicated to agriculture in the Yukon with nearly 16,000 hectares of titled agricultural land, 9,000 hectares in grazing agreements, and nearly 6,000 hectares in agricultural land reserve.
- Over the last decade more than 700 hectares of additional agricultural land has been added near Haines Junction (Marshall Creek), Whitehorse (Ibex Valley, Takhini Valley, Gentian Lane), and Dawson City (Sunnydale).

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Agricultural Land Development and Leases

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Context — this may be an issue because:

- There continues to be an interest in increasing local food production to support the Yukon's food self-sufficiency. There is a continuing demand for access to affordable land for raising livestock and growing crops.
- There may be questions whether land designated for agriculture may be converted or wholly used for another land use.

Background:

Currently available agricultural land

- Five lots totaling 119 hectares are available in the Silver Trail Subdivision, near Mayo.
- In Whitehorse, the small lease lot area at Gentian Lane is available for 2025 and development continues in response to feedback from potential lessees.

Agriculture land expected to be available soon

- We are currently developing Phase 2 of the Murray Agriculture Subdivision in Ibex Valley. This work will enable leasing up to 80 hectares in 2025 for livestock pasture.
- In the Klondike valley, we anticipated being able to release up to nine acres of land through seasonal leases for food production in 2025.
- In December 2024, we began engagement on an agriculture and wildfire fuel abatement lease project near km 151 of the South Klondike Highway.

Process to make agricultural land available

- In many cases, the development of an agricultural land reserve is the first step towards land development and releases across the Yukon, notably in Haines Junction, Klondike, and Whitehorse areas. Developing a reserve includes activities such as engagement, consultation, environmental assessments, building access roads, surveying and re-zoning if necessary.

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 7, 2025
Last Updated:

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- We continue to work to implement practices for climate change adaptation to use the Yukon's woodlands for livestock production and carbon sequestration, while reserving arable lands available for crop production.

Selling and leasing agriculture land

- Agriculture leases can support a wide range of agriculture activities for many types of agriculture operations in the Yukon. These include livestock lease areas, grazing agreements and market garden leases.
- We conduct ongoing inspections to ensure requirements under Agreements for Sale, agricultural leases and grazing agreements are met.
- From 2016 to 2024, we have added over 700 ha in titled and leased agriculture land. The table below summarizes land releases from 2016 to 2024.

Summary of agriculture land releases 2016 - 2024					
Year	Agreements for sale			Leases	
	# lots	hectares		# Leases	hectares
2016	4	117.15			
2017	5	162.03			
2018	2	12			
2019	6	290.1			
2020	2	12		1	7.1
2021	2	35.5			
2022	1	5		1	3.5
2023	1	64.3		2	2.75
2024	0	0		1	0.05
Total 2016-2024	23	698.08		5	13.4

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Land Matching Initiative

- In 2022, the Agriculture Branch coordinated a pilot project to match farmers with under-utilized agricultural land in the Dawson City area.
- Through the pilot work, it was concluded that a non-government organization (NGO) is best suited to manage and implement this type of program. The Agriculture Branch engaged in discussions with NGOs with an agricultural mandate on their interest in such an initiative. There has been little uptake to date.
- Conversations with NGOs with an agricultural mandate continue regarding providing program support if those NGOs desire to develop this service.

Approved By:

Paul Moore

January 29, 2025

Deputy Minister_____
Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Elk–Agriculture Management

Environment and
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon works to ensure that the Yukon's elk population remains healthy and can be sustainably harvested. The Departments of Energy Mines and Resources and Environment also work to reduce the negative impacts elk can have on the production of local foods and crops.
- In 2023, the Government of Yukon implemented a two-year pilot project to minimize impacts of the [Takhini elk herd](#) on agricultural properties while maintaining the Takhini elk herd on the landscape.
- A Steering Committee is implementing the plan. The Committee is made up of representation from the Government of Yukon, the Yukon Fish and Game Association, the Yukon Agricultural Association, and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.
- In March 2024, the Steering Committee hired a Pilot Project Coordinator to work with property owners and hunters to implement measures to deter the [Takhini elk herd](#) from properties and respond when elk are present.
- The person who was initially hired for this position resigned in January 2025, and the Steering Committee hired a new Coordinator that began in late February.
- The two-year pilot project created a Limited Exclusion Zone to deter elk in the affected agricultural areas of Takhini Valley, applying localized and range-scale herd management, supporting fencing options, implementing an elk radio-collaring program, and conducting a social survey to understand more about how we interact with elk.

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Additional response:

- In the Yukon, there are three types of Elk hunting permits:
 - Permit Hunt Authorization (PHA) for Elk, which can be obtained through the Permit Hunt Authorization Lottery, including four PHA's for the Takhini Elk Herd;
 - Elk exclusion area permits, which allow any Yukon resident to hunt elk in select exclusion areas; and
 - *Wildlife Act* adaptive elk permits that are available for the Takhini Valley, through the Permit Hunt Authorization Lottery. Eight of these permits were first introduced in 2023 and are still available.
- In the 2024-2024 season a total of nine elk were harvested in the territory:
 - Four elk were killed through *Wildlife Act* Adaptive Elk permits in the Takhini Valley; and,
 - Five elk were killed by hunters with a Permit Hunt Authorization – two in Braeburn and three in Takhini Valley.

Third response (Braeburn elk):

- Survey results from the past five years range from 12 to 36 elk, representing a significant decline in the Braeburn elk herd. The Braeburn elk herd does not have any documented conflicts with farmers or agricultural properties.

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- To ensure the Braeburn elk herd's long-term survival and to support its recovery, the two PHA's have been paused for this hunting season.
 - This pause is only for the Braeburn elk herd. There are presently no concerns with Takhini elk herd and the four PHA opportunities for that herd remain available this season.
 - This is in keeping with Goal 1 of the 2016 Management Plan for Elk in the Yukon to "Ensure the Takhini and Braeburn elk herds remain healthy and self-sustaining."
 - As the member opposite is the signatory to the 2016 Management Plan for Elk in Yukon, I am sure he remembers the good work of the many stakeholders involved in its creation. This includes:
 - Champagne and Aishihik First Nations,
 - Ta'an Kwäch'än Council,
 - Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation,
 - Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board,
 - Alsek Renewable Resources Council,
 - Laberge Renewable Resources Council,
 - Carmacks Renewable Resources Council,
 - Yukon Game Growers Association,
 - Yukon Agriculture Association,

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- Yukon Agriculture Industry Advisory Council, and
- Yukon Fish and Game Association.
- All of these parties have an interest in elk management and we appreciate their efforts to create the management plan.
- The Department of Environment will continue to monitor the Braeburn elk herd abundance and recruitment rates, with the goal of reopening sustainable hunting opportunities in the near future.

Fourth response:

- The Department of Environment continues to monitor elk populations and their health to determine if there are additional harvest opportunities while ensuring that elk continue to be on the Yukon's landscape.
- The number of calls to the Conservation Officer Services Branch concerning elk-agriculture conflicts remains low, with a total of 25 complaints received since 2020.
- In 2023 and 2024, there were no applications for compensation claims.
- Any Yukoner experiencing a conflict with elk or other wildlife on their property can call the TIPP line at 1-800-661-0525 to report the issue to our Conservation Officers.
- Farmers are able to apply for funding for game fencing through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding program and compensation for elk damage to crops and property from Agriculture Branch.

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- Landowners and farmers can apply for a permit to shoot elk damaging their properties. These permits are only used in specific cases where there are ongoing issues and damage, and where all other reasonable measures have been unsuccessful.
- The Department of Environment continues to work closely with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to consider additional ways to reduce conflict between the Takhini elk herd and agricultural land owners.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Affected farmers may seek an update on government actions to address the conflict between the wild elk population and agricultural properties in the Limited Exclusion Zone.

Background:

- Since 2014, the Government of Yukon has provided funding to compensate farmers for elk damage and funding to install exclusion fencing, although it has not fully covered farmers' time and other costs associated with mitigation.
- Between 2021 and 2024, the Government of Yukon established an additional funding program for farmers to install elk exclusion fencing on agricultural properties in the Takhini Valley eastern buffer zone. \$289,576 was allocated for nine fencing projects under this program. Current and ongoing funding for elk exclusion fencing now comes from Sustainable-Canadian Agriculture Partnership.

Approved by:	
Dennis Berry	April 9, 2025
Deputy Minister, Environment	Date approved
Heather Mills	April 9, 2025
Acting Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources	Date approved

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Agriculture Sector Status and Supports

Energy, Mines and
Resources**Recommended response:**

- Yukon's agriculture sector are facing challenges with increasing costs, supply chain challenges, labour shortages and impacts of climate change.
- Under the five-year, \$9.25 million Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program, we provide funding to projects that support farm resiliency, from farm business plans and research initiatives to emergency infrastructure development and equipment purchases.
- In emergency situations, like the severe spring flooding of 2023 in the Klondike Valley, we supported the recovery process for farms and will continue to do so.

Additional response:

- Since the April 2023 launch of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program, we have approved over \$2.4 million in funding for over 125 local agriculture projects.
- [Ministers have directed departments to prioritize](#) purchases of locally produced foods for government-run facilities. This supports local farms and other Yukon food producers and keeps money in the territory.
- Other programs that support the Yukon agriculture sector include the Department of Economic Development's Economic Development Fund and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency.

Additional Response for Supply Management:

- As the Yukon agricultural sector evolves and grows, we continue to work with farmers to understand what structures support its health in

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Energy, Mines and Resources

the northern context.

- The Yukon's dairy, poultry and egg producers are not currently part of the national supply management system.
- Views and perspectives regarding supply management vary considerably within the Yukon sector. We continue to be engaged with producers in supply managed commodities on supports for those sectors that align with Yukon conditions.

Additional Response for Veterinary Shortages:

- The Government of Yukon is addressing the livestock veterinary shortage through two programs: Livestock Veterinary Services Program, which has been in place since 2015; along with Livestock Health Program, which began in 2022.
- Both programs support Yukon producers in accessing veterinary care, along with education and advice on livestock health, biosecurity and food safety along with laboratory services. This work enhances animal disease prevention and emergency response.
- The Agriculture Branch and Animal Health Unit deliver these programs with funding assistance from Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership.
- Currently, program services include:
 - Free veterinary telemedicine consultations;
 - Some on-farm services;
 - Access to prescription medications for livestock;
 - Limited on-farm health services; and

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- Reimbursements for private veterinary consultations, when a veterinarian is available, up to \$1,000 per year.
- In response to Yukon farmers and veterinarians, the program was expanded in 2022 to include telemedicine provided via the VETSON app, allowing registered users to consult with livestock veterinarians, free of charge.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The agriculture industry is facing challenges in recent years and may be looking to the Government of Yukon to provide additional support in response.
- Some of Yukon's farmers who produce supply managed food products such as eggs, poultry and dairy are interested in exploring Canada's supply management system.
- There is a shortage of veterinary practitioners in Canada and globally that has placed stress on Yukon livestock producers with no private veterinary services.

Background:

- Horses are not eligible under the Livestock Veterinary Services Program and equine owners are encouraged to use the VETSon app for consultations and prescriptions.
- The Animal Health Unit works with VETSon to make equine medications available for pick-up in Whitehorse. Registered users to consult with livestock veterinarians, free of charge.
- Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy commits the Government of Yukon to partnering with the Government of Canada to support and administer federal-provincial-territorial agricultural funding programs in the territory. (See BN #19)
- Since 2003, five federal-provincial-territorial cost-shared agricultural funding programs have been implemented in the Yukon. The funding is cost-shared on a 60:40 ratio between the governments of Canada and Yukon, respectively.

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- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP) program is the most recent installment and it began on April 1, 2023. The program will provide \$9.25 million in sector support over five years (2023-2028) for agriculture supports and agri-food development projects that range from farm business plans, research initiatives, development of infrastructure and purchasing of equipment, improvement to on-farm energy efficiency, and practices to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- The Government of Yukon engaged with First Nations and industry to ensure their feedback was reflected in the S-CAP program.
- Under the previous Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding program, ColdAcre Food Systems received over \$40,000 in funding for a variety of projects from internships to processing equipment to business planning. ColdAcre Food Systems did not apply for any funding under S-CAP.
- In spring 2023, Klondike River flooding caused damage to several farms, businesses and homes. The Agriculture Flood Recovery Funding Program is a one-time program for farmers and agricultural producers. It covers costs from the damage and loss caused by flooding in the region around Klondike Valley.

Government of Yukon Locally Produced Food Purchases - [Online Marketplace](#)

- The Government of Yukon purchases locally produced foods for its facilities. The Government of Yukon spends approximately \$3 million per year on food.
- Increasing government purchase of local food aligns with Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy and Our Clean Future. It is a key priority in the 2016-2021 Local Food Strategy for the Yukon. (See BN #38)
- [Ministers of Energy, Mines and Resources, Highways and Public Works, Education and Health and Social Services](#) have directed departments to prioritize purchasing locally produced food with a 10% minimum target for those items that can be locally sourced.
- [The Government of Yukon](#) has developed a new platform that allows [Government of Yukon grocery purchasers](#) to easily purchase local food products (and other products) called the [Online Marketplace](#).
- [The system](#) allows producers to list their products in an online catalogue and to

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interact directly with purchasers.

- This new platform has addressed some of the challenges experienced in the 2021-2024 [Standing Offer Agreement](#) to address supply challenges, make purchasing easier, and explore procurement options.
- [Successes to date include:](#)
 - Pilot launched in July 2024 with [full functionality in early 2025](#);
 - In November 2024, we issued a tender to open a Qualified Source List of local food producers for participation in the system;
 - [5 food vendors are fully online](#);
 - [3 new vendors are coming online in April 2025](#);
 - To date, just under \$11,000 in purchases of local food have been made.
- [Further steps and actions underway:](#)
 - Targeted training and roll out of Online Marketplace across major Yukon government food purchasing programs in the departments of Education, Justice, and Health and Social Services;
 - Monthly reporting and feedback on purchases to date;
 - Planned Meet and Greet to connect producers with purchasers;
 - Continued reach out to new prospective vendors to increase the number of locally produced products in the system.
- Between 2021 and 2024, a Local Food Standing Offer Agreement (SOA) enabled departments to purchase local food products.
 - A total of \$122,768.74 of food was bought under the SOA over 3 years:
 - 2021-22 – approximately \$44,000
 - 2022-23 – approximately \$52,000
 - 2023-24 – approximately \$28,000
 - Purchases were made by two Whitehorse continuing care centres and one Whitehorse student residence.

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Energy, Mines and Resources

Supply Management Background

- Supply management is the marketing system that controls the domestic production, pricing and import of milk, poultry and eggs. Producers of these commodities must hold units of quota to market and sell their products.
- The Yukon's dairy, poultry and egg producers are not part of the national supply management systems. To date, the discussion on supply management in the Yukon has focused on egg production.
- In the Yukon, there are three farms producing eggs, operating federally inspected egg grading stations and selling eggs in the retail market. Several small farms also produce eggs for farm gate sales.
- Supply management systems require cooperation between producers, producer boards and both provincial, territorial and federal governments. There is no established process for how a new jurisdiction would join supply management in Canada. Initial quotas were allocated to all the provinces in the 1970s.
- Views, perspectives and knowledge regarding supply management vary considerably within the sector. Some industry members are interested in joining Canada's supply management system, while others feel it is not appropriate for the Yukon.

Approved by:

Heather Mills

April 28, 2025

 Acting Deputy Minister,
 Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

 Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Abattoir Availability

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Recommended response

- The Government of Yukon is working with industry so that farmers have access to the infrastructure they need to slaughter livestock for retail sale.
- We license and inspect the two privately owned abattoirs that currently provide slaughter services for the Yukon's poultry and red meat livestock producers.
- The Government of Yukon owns a mobile abattoir which was made available for one day in 2024 for game farm animals in southern Yukon and was also provided for 4 days of slaughter service in Dawson area.

Additional response:

- Mobile abattoir services are instrumental in providing inspected slaughter of game farm species that cannot be transported live off-farm such as Elk, as well as animals in the Klondike area where there is no established abattoir.
- We also provide meat inspection services at no charge to producers and abattoirs by inspecting animals prior to slaughter and providing post-mortem inspections of carcasses and organ meats.
- To ensure that the Yukon's livestock producers are well-served by available resources, we will continue to monitor abattoir needs for livestock production and slaughter across the territory.

Additional response (if asked about abattoir closing):

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: March 5, 2025
Last Updated: April 14, 2025

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Abattoir Availability

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- With the indefinite closure of one public abattoir, the Government of Yukon is working with the private abattoir owners to increase capacity to ensure that inspected slaughter services remain available for producers.
- The Government of Yukon released a new incentive program for licensed abattoir operators to increase the capacity for inspected slaughter.
- The program is to support service delivery, strength local supply chains, and support sector resilience in line with Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership goals.
- The incentive will be provided on a per-animal basis. Interested abattoir operators are asked to submit their interest in the program by April 23, 2025 to the Agriculture Branch.
- As a backup, mobile slaughter solutions remain available to provide slaughter services should private abattoirs not meet capacity and during this period where longer-term options are developed.
- One of our goals in this work is to ensure that the Government of Yukon does not compete with the private sector.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions on year-round abattoir availability in the territory and how the Yukon's livestock producers' slaughter needs are being met.

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Abattoir Availability

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Spring 2025
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Resources

Background:

Abattoir Incentive Program:

- The program will provide payments to eligible abattoirs based on a per-animal incentive amount. Payments are based on the submission of meat inspection records for number of animals processed, and supporting information as described below.
- Eligible Applicants must:
 - hold a valid licence to operate under the *Agriculture Products Act*;
 - have a valid Yukon Corporate Registry (YCOR) number;
 - commit to providing access to slaughter services to the public during their participation in the program; and
 - agree to reporting requirements.
- The incentive will be provided on a per-animal basis. Incentive rates will be fixed per animal, per species for the 2025-26 fiscal year, and will include a seasonal rate adjustment to support stability in the off-season.
- The incentive program will only apply to inspected slaughter services offered to other livestock producers, not to animals slaughtered that are owned by the abattoir operator or associated businesses.
- Participants will be eligible to receive the incentive based on the submission and approval of information such as the number of animals slaughtered by species, number of slaughter days, compliance with legislation and traceability program reporting, a summary of current and projected slaughter activity, and activities supported by the incentive.
- Program timelines and review: The program will run until at least March 31, 2026 and will be reviewed for effectiveness beginning in late fall 2025. A progress report will be made available to the sector via Agriculture Branch's InFARMAtion Bites email distribution list. Program continuation and renewal of agreements will be subject to available funding and a review of implementation

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Abattoir Availability

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outcomes.

More Background:

- The Government of Yukon supports the safe operation of private abattoirs through inspection and licensing of abattoir facilities and by providing funding and training to the operators.
- There are two private abattoirs in the Yukon offering services to livestock producers:
 - The Farm Gate abattoir (M'Clintock Valley, Marsh Lake) is the Yukon's only poultry abattoir. It received its red meat slaughter licence in October 2022. Both services are available to the public.
 - Takhini Valley Meats (Mendenhall) began operating for red meat slaughter in September 2023. Recently, they announced their closure due to personal reasons.
- There are two other abattoirs in the Yukon:
 - Can Do Farms purchased a new mobile abattoir. It currently is not available to the public.
 - Takhini River Ranch operates a private abattoir used to slaughter and process animals raised on its own farm. It is not available to the public.
- Two farms recently submitted micro-abattoir proposals to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) for review. Both projects are in the adequacy review phase.
- Over the years, the Government of Yukon has supported the industry to ensure that Yukon's livestock industry has abattoir services.
- In 2006, Government of Yukon purchased and placed a mobile abattoir into operation. The service allowed farmers to sell inspected red meat. Since then, the mobile abattoir has serviced farms primarily in Whitehorse region, where slaughter demand was greatest. Farms in the Klondike, Haines Junction and Mayo, where demand is lower, were provided a coordinated fall slaughter.

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- In April 2022, Yukon Born and Raised Meats closed the Yukon's only year-round abattoir operating at that time.
- During winter 2022-23, the Government of Yukon's mobile abattoir was located at Horse Haven Ranch inside a heated building and was available to meet winter slaughter needs while private industry developed year-round facilities.
- Since 2023, two private abattoirs became licensed and offer inspected red meat slaughter services to producers. The private sector now operates year-round, offering slaughter services to livestock producers.
- The Agriculture Branch provided two separate training sessions on abattoir operation in April 2023 and July 2023 for private abattoir businesses. The Farm Gate, Can Do Farms and Takhini Valley Meats all attended the courses. The attendees provided positive feedback on delivery and content and future training sessions will be offered based on need.
- As part of a long-term plan for the Yukon's producers to transition towards privately owned abattoirs for their slaughter needs, in late spring 2023, the Government of Yukon started reducing access to its mobile abattoir.
- Transitioning to privately owned abattoirs is one step to promoting the growth and sustainability of the Yukon's agriculture sector. Stable and reliable local meat processing and packing businesses are also necessary to ensure meat from inspected slaughter at these abattoirs can reach the plates of Yukoners.
- The Government of Yukon's mobile abattoir provided service in the Klondike region in September 2024. Long-term abattoir services for northern Yukon are being assessed to support sustainable growth of the livestock sector.
- The Government of Yukon's mobile abattoir is aging, and the private sector now handles most slaughter services. The goal is that all slaughter services are eventually industry-led.

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#16
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

Heather Mills

April 15, 2025

Acting Deputy Minister
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note**Domestic Sheep and
Goat Control Order**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon has a role to play in protecting thinhorn sheep and mountain goats in the Yukon from the risk of infectious diseases that could spread from domestic sheep and goats.
- One of these diseases is a respiratory disease caused by a type of bacteria that is commonly called *M. ovi*, that can be fatal to wild sheep and goats and may infect other wild species.
- In 2020, we issued a 5-year Control Order requiring domestic sheep and goat owners to meet testing and fencing requirements to prevent disease transmission to wild sheep and goats.
- Based on the continued risk of the disease and information from independent reports and program evaluation data, the Ministers of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources issued a new 10-year Control Order that came into effect January 1, 2025.
- The new Control Order reduces the administrative burden on domestic sheep and goat owners while continuing to mitigate the risks of transmission.

Additional response:

- The new Control Order is based on program evaluation, an industry impact assessment, and an updated risk assessment report, which shows there is an ongoing risk of disease transfer between domestic and wild populations.
- Stakeholders and partners were engaged during the creation of these reports to help us understand the impacts of the Control Order and the current risk of disease transfer to wild sheep and goats.
- The new Order includes changes that focus on testing and inspection activities based on risk and offer new options for animal importation.

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- These changes will reduce the paperwork for sheep and goat owners and will provide new options to help owners purchase animals from outside the territory.

Third response:

- The Government of Yukon continues to test domestic sheep and goats for this respiratory pathogen and assess fencing to mitigate risks, monitor for presence of the disease and assist owners of sheep and goats to comply with the order.
- We keep informed with new research findings and we have confidence in the testing methods and laboratories we use to monitor the disease in sheep and goats.
- Annual testing of sheep and goats in the Yukon shows that importing live animals presents a high risk of bringing the disease to the Yukon.
- There is no cost to farmers for testing sheep and goats in the Yukon and they can apply for compensation for the destruction of an animal that tests positive, if that animal was bred in the Yukon or previously tested negative prior to import.
- We also continue to monitor wildlife populations for pathogens. To date, no cases of *M. ovi* have been detected in the Yukon's wild sheep or goats.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Sheep and goat owners and wildlife stakeholders are aware of the commissioned reports and the new Control Order.
- Interested stakeholders are asking how the new Control Order will be implemented.

Background:

- The Yukon has the largest population of wild thinhorn sheep in Canada. This species is of intrinsic, cultural and commercial value.

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- The three commissioned reports that helped inform the new Control Order are:
 - 'Risk Assessment of Respiratory Pathogen Transmission from Domestic Small Ruminants to Thinhorn Sheep and Mountain Goats in the Yukon and Northern British Columbia': an updated assessment of the risk of pneumonia disease transfer from domestic sheep and goats to wild sheep and goats;
 - 'Sheep and Goat Control Order Impact Assessment Synthesis Report': an assessment of the impact this order had on domestic sheep and goat owners in the Yukon; and
 - 'Mycoplasma spp. testing in domestic sheep and goats and wildlife: Assessment of testing options and recommendations for the Yukon: a summary of the best available information about the options for testing for M. ovi.
- The Risk Assessment report concludes there is a potential ongoing risk of pathogen transfer from domestic sheep and goats to wild populations.
- Members of Yukon Renewable Resource Councils, Yukon First Nations, agriculture associations in the Yukon and neighboring jurisdictions as well as veterinarians of state, territorial and provincial governments and representatives from national and regional wildlife associations, were engaged in developing the Risk Assessment report. Members of the Yukon Wild Sheep Foundation and B.C. Guide Outfitters Association also provided their comments.
- All past and current sheep and goat owners subject to the Control Order were invited to participate in the industry impact assessment. Representatives from agriculture associations and subject matter experts from the Agriculture Branch and Animal Health Unit were also interviewed.
- From the time the Control Order was announced (October 2018) to December 2024, about \$515,000 was spent on compensation and funding to help sheep and goat owners mitigate risks to meet its requirements.

Approved By:Dennis Berry

Deputy Minister of Environment

February 18, 2025

Date Approved

Paul Moore

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

February 18, 2025

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

2020 Agriculture Policy

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Recommended response:

- In July 2020, Energy, Mines and Resources released Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy. The policy guides the Yukon's agriculture industry and increases the territory's ability to be more self-sufficient in its food production.
- The 2020 Agriculture Policy supports four key objectives:
 - support the agricultural economy;
 - create and protect agricultural land;
 - promote resilient and sustainable agriculture; and
 - foster growth through partnership and community.
- Yukon First Nations, industry associations, municipalities, renewable resource councils and the public participated in the development of the policy.
- Under the policy, we continue to implement the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership with the Government of Canada to provide \$9.25 million in funding from 2023-2028 to support our key objectives. (See BN#15)

Additional response:

- We are working to make more agricultural land available to Yukoners by zoning new agricultural lands and leasing or selling these lands. (See BN#13)

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- We are currently undertaking a comprehensive review of policy commitments and implementation status, working closely with the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Industry members may be curious about policy review and implementation and want to know what has been done by the Government of Yukon to fulfill policy commitments.
-

Background:

- Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Agriculture Policy is Yukon's fourth agricultural policy. Its development was guided by the Agricultural Industry Advisory Committee and informed through engagement with the agricultural community, Yukon First Nations and the public between 2016 and late 2019.
- The vision of the policy is to create the right conditions for a thriving agricultural industry to:
 - Increase our self-sufficiency in food production;
 - Produce high-quality products that feed our vibrant communities;
 - Contribute to our local economy; and
 - Leave positive cultural and environmental legacies for future generations.

Cultivating Our Future Policy Commitments on Organic Farming

- Cultivating Our Future includes eight commitments related to organic farming.
- The organic sector in the Yukon is small (<10 producers) and is represented by the Growers of Organic Food Yukon (GoOFY).
- The Agriculture Branch is currently reviewing the status of all policy commitments in Cultivating Our Future with the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee and

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planning for one-on-one meetings with the Growers of Organic Food Yukon to discuss the commitments specific to organic production.

- To best determine how to approach and prioritize the commitments related to organic agriculture, the Agriculture Branch met directly with GoOFY in early 2025 and are working on a path forward for the remainder of the policy lifetime.
- Government support for the organic sector since policy approval in 2020 includes:
 - The Agriculture Branch's engagement with Growers of Organic Food Yukon representatives and the predominant certifying body for the Yukon in winter 2020/21 regarding Yukon-specific logo development. This work can be continued with Agriculture Branch support if it remains a sector priority.
 - The Agriculture Branch staff attendance at organic conferences and workshops.
 - Support is available to associations or organic producers through the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (Sustainable CAP) for training, workshops, or conference attendance.
 - Sustainable CAP funding to Growers of Organic Food Yukon to complete a communications strategy will enable the association to update online presence and improve public communications around organic farming, labelling and requirements.

Primary Agriculture Use:

- The 2020 Agriculture Policy further defined 'primary agriculture' to assist in the determination of whether accessory use can be authorized for development permits on agriculture zoned property to meet requirements of zoning regulations.
- The definition in the 2020 Agriculture Policy is used to determine whether agriculture property meets primary use per zoning regulations, prior to obtaining authorizations for secondary land uses.

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- In November 2020, the Government of Yukon communicated new primary agricultural use criteria to agricultural property owners.
- Response to the new criteria was mixed, with some property owners expressing concern about how it would impact their ability to undertake accessory uses.
- A decision has not yet been made to implement updated criteria.
- The proposed criteria for primary agricultural use is any of the following:
 - 60 per cent of the land is in agricultural production, as confirmed by an Agriculture Branch inspection.
 - Gross farm sales (as shown on Canada Revenue Agency tax returns) have been at least \$15,000 for two of the previous three tax years.
 - Farm investment (as shown on Canada Revenue Agency tax returns) has been at least \$20,000 in the previous tax year.
 - Total sales and investment were over \$20,000 in the previous tax year.
 - Enrollment in the federal AgriStability program for two of the previous three tax years. (AgriStability is a federal program that provides support to farmers when they experience income losses).

Approved By:

Paul Moore

January 29, 2025

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Avian Influenza (H5N1)

#19
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Recommended response

- Avian influenza is a contagious viral infection, also known as bird flu or avian flu that can infect wild birds and domestic poultry.
- It has recently been found in cattle and dairy products and, in rare cases, people.
- To date, there are no confirmed cases of avian influenza in domestic animals in the Yukon. Avian influenza has been detected in 8 samples between April 2022 and October 2024, in wild birds and one wild mammal.
- In suspected cases of avian influenza, the Animal Health Unit collects samples and submits them to the appropriate laboratory for testing.
- We have an efficient response plan prepared in case avian influenza is ever detected in the Yukon's domestic animals. This plan supports farmers whose flocks are affected.

Additional response:

- We will continue to educate farmers about disease prevention and management of domestic flocks in the Yukon through activities such as workshops on biosecurity and prevention.
- We support the measures taken by the Government of Canada to do surveillance and testing on cattle imports into Canada from the USA.
- Continued support for surveillance and testing of avian influenza is key to ensuring the continued health of our cattle and poultry farmers.

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Avian Influenza (H5N1)

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Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions on the Government of Yukon's preparedness to respond to suspected cases of avian influenza.

Background:

- Avian influenza viruses are primarily a disease of birds for wild and primarily domestic poultry and a variety of mammals. They are classified as highly pathogenic when a strain causes mass disease and death in birds.
- Strains of influenza can infect a wide range of animal species including humans. Currently, there is no evidence that the virus can spread among humans.
- Avian influenza is a reportable disease under the federal *Health of Animals Act and Regulations* and is a reportable hazard under the *Yukon Animal Health Act*.
- Farms across Canada have been impacted with outbreaks leading to destruction of tens of thousands of poultry. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has reported over 15 million poultry impacted across Canada since 2022. This has resulted in large economic losses for farmers. In addition, outbreaks cause operational disruptions for poultry movement, sourcing brood stock and recovery cost following an outbreak.
- Farmers are also experiencing mental health challenges. The loss of income, increased debt load and economic viability of the farm from outbreaks or multiple outbreaks contribute to mental stress for many farmers.
- The Government of Yukon has provided biosecurity guidelines, held workshops and responded to requests from farmers to implement biosecurity measures to help reduce the chance of infections from avian influenza. The most recent workshop occurred in June 2024, focusing on foreign disease management with livestock producers.
- The Government of Canada takes the lead on avian influenza monitoring and response activities, with coordination and assistance from the provinces and

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territories. The Government of Yukon is involved in federal and inter-jurisdictional groups on Avian influenza surveillance and response planning.

- We are finalizing a location map of the Yukon's poultry producing premises to aid in disease management and control. This mapping of the known premises holding birds will help a swift response plan in the event of a detection in the territory.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has implemented import controls for cattle that require a negative test for Avian Influenza for any lactating dairy cattle to enter Canada from the USA. There is support for testing Canadian dairy cattle if this is suspected.

Approved by:

Heather Mills

January 23, 2025

Actin Deputy Minister,
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note
Feral Horses

Energy, Mines and
Resources and
Environment

Recommended response:

- On January 29, a report was received of a dead horse in Ibex Valley.
- Information in the report also indicated that a feral horse well-known to locals had not been seen since early January 2025.
- Following the report, which included statements, images and location of the horse's remains, the Animal Protection and Control Officer attended the scene to gather additional information.
- Based on the report, statements, aerial images and site inspection, there was no evidence to support the complaint of human involvement or violation under the *Animal Protection and Control Act*.
- The cause of death remains unknown. There were signs of wolf feeding activity near the site where the horse was found.

Additional response:

- We understand Yukoners feel strongly about the feral horse population and that there are diverse values and viewpoints.
- The Government of Yukon's *Animal Protection and Control Act* was developed through extensive engagement with Yukoners and will guide our territory in managing all aspects of animal protection and control in the Yukon.
- The *Animal Protection and Control Act* established measures for care and control, along with measures against abuse that apply to domestic animals and livestock across the territory.

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Feral Horses

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Environment

- Horses are defined as livestock under the Act's regulations.
- Members of the public can report concerns about livestock, including feral horses, to the Agriculture Branch in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources which coordinates responses with the Department of Environment.
- The Animal Protection and Control Officer within the Agriculture Branch is the lead officer for any reports on livestock species, including feral horses.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Members of the public are currently calling for increased protection for feral horses.

Background:

- Under the *Animal Protection and Control Act*, it is illegal to for a person to kill or capture a feral animal that is at large unless authorized to do so (Section 46(1) of *Animal Protection and Control Act*).
- The *Animal Protection and Control Act* defines a feral animal as “an animal that is not owned or controlled by any person and has the capacity to establish a population that may be sustained in the wild.”
- The Yukon's feral horse population does not meet the definition of ‘wildlife’ under the *Wildlife Act*, which defines wildlife as vertebrate species that are ‘wild by nature’. The feral horse population in the Yukon originated from domestic horses that have been let loose by their original owners. Some of these animals have survived in the wild for several generations.
- It is estimated that there are less than 50 feral horses along the Alaska Highway between Whitehorse and Haines Junction.

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Feral Horses

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- In 2023, members of the public raised concerns that feral horses in the Champagne area were being destroyed or injured. The Animal Protection Officer patrolled the area but was unable to locate horses in distress.
- Since April 2024, the Agriculture Branch has responded to four reports regarding the welfare of horses (issues resolved), 12 reports of loose horses on the highway (owners found or feral horses) and two deceased horses (one hit by a vehicle and the second of natural causes).

Approved by:

Paul Moore

Deputy Minister
Energy Mines and Resources

March 5, 2025

Date approved

Dennis Berry

Deputy Minister
Environment

March 3, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Minto Mine Status and Update

#23
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Resources

Recommended response:

- Since Minto Mine was abandoned by Minto Metals in May 2023, Yukon-based companies have played a key role in progress to reclaim and close the site.
- As of the end of December 2024, approximately \$40 million has been spent on work to date, with nearly 80 per cent of payments directed to Yukon companies.
- All earthworks activities that were planned for 2024 were completed on schedule and on budget. Visitors to the site familiar with the project are impressed and appreciate the post-mining landscape being created to blend with the surrounding environment.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon spent approximately \$24 million in 2023-24 to protect the environment and begin remediating the site.
- Activities have focused on treating water, relocating mine waste, recontouring and covering waste dumps, removing debris and hazardous materials, and monitoring environmental performance.
- Subject to approval of the *Second Appropriation Act*, in 2024-25 we anticipate spending up to an additional \$24.5 million as we continue to reclaim and close the site. This will be recovered from the security we currently hold.
- Selkirk First Nation received Court approval for its new Selkirk First Nation-owned company to purchase assets at the Minto mine.

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Minto Mine Status and Update

#23
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Place holder for update on package B prior to session

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There has been significant attention on the abandonment of the Minto Mine and the Government of Yukon's activities to reclaim and close the site.

Background:

- The Minto Mine was an underground copper mine with gold and silver byproducts located on Selkirk First Nation's Category A Settlement Land.
- On May 13, 2023, Minto Metals abandoned the site and the Government of Yukon took over short-term environmental management responsibilities.
- The Government of Yukon contracted JDS to immediately mobilize to the site under a short-term contract to secure critical resources and subcontractors and initiate required activities. This contract ended on July 27, 2023, when Boreal Engineering took over as the site operator.
- On July 24, 2023, the British Columbia Supreme Court appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as the receiver of the Minto Mine site. The Receiver is responsible for all of Minto's assets, undertakings and property, and has the authority, among other things, to put the mine up for sale.
- The sales process initiated by the receiver in 2023 was not successful, resulting in the Receiver initiating asset liquidation in May 2024.
- As Minto Mine is on Category A Settlement Land, Selkirk First Nation holds surface and subsurface rights and the Government of Yukon collected royalty payments on behalf of Selkirk First Nation under the Quartz Mining Act.
- Through a court settlement order, royalties owed to Selkirk First Nation were resolved by a payment of \$1.3 million USD and the retention of \$700,000 CAD previously paid to Selkirk directly by Minto Metals Corporation.
- Selkirk First Nation also received additional financial benefits under its net smelter royalty arrangement with Minto Mine's owner, Minto Metals Corp. There are still monies owed to Selkirk First Nation from this arrangement.

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Minto Mine Status and Update

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- Once the site went into Receivership, former employees became able to access the federal government's Wage Earner Protection Program.
- The Government of Yukon holds \$75.2 million in security through a combination of cash and a surety bond for the mine, and we are using this funding to protect the environment and for remediation activities.
- Our initial estimates suggest that the costs for reclamation and closure of the mine are likely to be close to the \$93.2 million in financial security we sought from the mine operator. These estimates will be updated as work progresses.
- We are using a range of approaches to ensure work progresses effectively and efficiently, including open tenders where possible and direct award contracts where work must be delivered in shorter timeframes.
- Contracts to support this work in the 2024-25 fiscal year include:
 - Selkirk Development Corporation for reclamation activities – \$7.45 million
 - Boreal Engineering Ltd. for site operations – \$2.0 million (contract complete)
 - Cobalt Construction for site operations – \$4.6 million
 - Ensero Solutions for water monitoring – \$2.2 million
 - BQE Water for water treatment – \$1.45 million
 - SRK Consultants for engineering support – \$0.9 million
 - Selkirk Development Corporation for the supply of fuels – \$2.5 million

Approved by

Sierra van der Meer

January 28, 2025

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Wolverine Mine

#24
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Due to a suspected leak at the Wolverine mine tailings storage facility, we have increased environmental monitoring at the site and increased reporting frequency to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation.
- A leak is suspected because zinc, cadmium, selenium and cyanide were detected in water that flows through pipes beneath the lined tailings facility before discharge to the environment.
- An interim capture system has been installed by the site operator to collect the water so that it can be returned to the tailings storage facility. The system became operational on January 9, 2025.
- A more permanent solution is planned that involves a water treatment program in summer 2025 and 2026 to lower pond levels so that the liner can be inspected and repaired. A public request for proposals has been released to support this work.

Additional response:

- Samples of water suspected to be leaking from the tailings storage facility that were collected at downstream locations passed acute toxicity tests, indicating no immediate harm to human health or aquatic life.
- We continue to protect the environment, and human health and safety at the site while remediation planning advances. This work includes water management and treatment, and environmental monitoring.

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Wolverine Mine

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- Our next step is to engage with the Kaska First Nations to develop final reclamation and closure objectives for the site, and to update the remediation and closure plan accordingly.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The public may be interested in the activities, expenditures and remediation approach at the Wolverine site.

Background:

- The Wolverine Mine went into temporary closure in January 2015. The owner, Yukon Zinc Corporation, went into bankruptcy proceedings shortly afterwards.
- On September 13, 2019, the Yukon Supreme Court appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as the receiver of the Wolverine Mine site.
- Until November 1, 2022, the receiver was responsible for the care and maintenance of the site and for complying with regulatory authorizations and applicable statutes. The Government of Yukon assumed responsibility for the site on November 1, 2022.
- Following the sale process conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers that did not identify a successful purchaser, there are no plans to put the mine up for sale.
- Of the \$47 million spent at the site to date, \$10.5 million was recoverable through the financial security posted by Yukon Zinc Corporation.
- Natural Resource Officers inspect the site regularly to ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect the environment and human health and safety.
- In July 2023, Welichem, owner of most of the assets on the site, sold the largest share of its mine assets to NorZinc. NorZinc is planning for the removal of the mill and associated equipment.
- Ross River Dena Council has recently expressed its interest in participating in the closure and remediation process. Energy, Mines and Resources has provided funding to Ross River Dena Council to support this interest.

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Wolverine Mine

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- The Government of Yukon has a two-year transfer payment agreement in place with Ross River Dena Council for reclamation planning with financial funding up to \$50,000 a year. We are also working on finalizing a similar transfer payment agreement with Liard First Nation.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

March 19, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Vangorda Sale

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We continue to examine ways to address the historic liabilities at the Vangorda Plateau portion of the Faro Mine site in partnership with the Government of Canada and Ross River Dena Council.
- The partnership between Ross River Dena Council and Broden Mining is an opportunity for responsible mining in a brownfield area to offer significant benefits to Ross River and nearby communities.
- The Government of Canada is focusing this work through a lens of reconciliation and has advanced the proposed sale of the Vangorda Plateau, which carries benefits for the Ross River Dena Council, in recognition of the significant impacts of Faro Mine on Kaska people.

Additional response:

- Prior to concluding a sale process and the subsequent transfer of the Vangorda area to the Ross River Dena Council's Tse Zul Development Corporation, an agreement with affected First Nations and approval from the courts is required.
- We continue to participate in discussions on this opportunity with affected First Nations, and these discussions are ongoing.
- Should those discussions advance, legislative tools will be needed to secure expired claims ahead of transfer to new owners.
- This spring the Governments of Canada and Yukon will start the process of surveying the Faro and Vangorda properties as a required step to finalize the transition.

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Vangorda Sale

Energy, Mines and
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- We are ensuring that no unsecured historic liabilities are transferred to the Government of Yukon. Any mining activities will be subject to the Yukon's assessment and regulatory regimes.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised about the status of the Vangorda sale process and what if any, legislative tools are required to secure expired claims in the area for transfer to new owners.

Background:

- The Vangorda area is part of the Faro Mine Complex (See BN# 28). All affected parties agreed to a remediation approach for the Faro Mine site in 2009 with an understanding that long-term care and maintenance would be required for hundreds of years. In 2012 the Government of Canada directed YG to remove Vangorda from reclamation planning.
- Any transfer of the Vangorda area requires agreement from affected First Nations as per the Devolution Transfer Agreement, and approval from the courts. Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation, Kaska Dena Council and Selkirk First Nation are identified as affected First Nations in the Devolution Transfer Agreement.
- Section 6.64 of the Devolution Transfer Agreement provides alternative approaches to governing and managing work at Type II mine sites, provided Yukon, Canada and affected First Nations governments agree.
- An alternate agreement under section 6.64 of the Devolution Transfer Agreement is being sought with Selkirk First Nation, the only affected First Nation that is a signatory to the Devolution Transfer Agreement.
- The Governments of Canada and Yukon are working collaboratively on a survey of the Faro and Vangorda properties. Finalizing the dividing survey line between properties is a key step in this process.
- The liability associated with the Faro Mine site (including the Vangorda area) has increased significantly from initial estimates made in 2003.

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Vangorda Sale

Spring 2025
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Resources

Approved By:

Sierra van der Meer

January 28, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date Approved

Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Type II Sites

#26 Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon continues to work closely with the Government of Canada on Type II abandoned mine sites in an oversight capacity with the exception of two locations.
- Ketz River and Clinton Creek are the last two remaining Type II sites where the Government of Yukon is responsible for reclamation and closure activities using federal funding.
- We are looking at the current roles and responsibilities for the Ketz River and Clinton Creek mines with affected First Nations and considering the transfer of management of historical liabilities from Yukon back to Canada.

Additional response:

- We are working towards [transitioning operational control and responsibility for addressing environmental liabilities at the Ketz River and Clinton Creek mine sites to Canada by the end of 2025](#).
- We are collaborating with affected First Nations and communities to ensure remediation approaches recognize the specific needs and interests of those most impacted and that the management of these sites balances environmental protection with opportunities to strengthen and diversify our economy.
- We [continue to support](#) local solutions to remedial efforts wherever possible.

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Type II Sites

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Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in the approaches and timelines to address historic liabilities at Type II sites.

Background:

- Under the Devolution Transfer Agreement, Canada holds financial responsibility for pre-devolution liabilities on mine sites commonly referred to as Type II sites.
- Yukon Type II sites include Clinton Creek, Mount Nansen, Ketzá River, Keno Hill and Faro. (See BN #107)
- In August 2023, the Governments of Canada and Yukon informed affected First Nations (Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation, Dease River First Nation, Kwadacha Nation, Teslin Tlingit Council and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in) that the [two governments were entering into negotiations to adjust roles and responsibilities for the Ketzá River and Clinton Creek mine sites, leading to a transfer of remediation responsibilities from the Yukon to Canada.](#)
- The intent of these negotiations is to reach an agreement like the one in place for the Faro Mine that sees the planning and execution of work at the sites carried out by the Government of Canada. (See BN #28)
- A successful agreement requires endorsement by affected First Nations. Transition is anticipated to occur during the [2025-26 fiscal year, subject to ongoing negotiations with the associated affected First Nations.](#)
- At present, the Governments of Canada and Yukon undertake various approaches to remediate Type II sites as outlined in the table below:

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Type II Sites

#26
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Roles and Responsibilities at Type II Sites

Site	Lead Organization	Remediation	Funding
Mount Nansen	Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership	Remediation planning is complete; remediation will be executed by the Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership.	Government of Canada
Clinton Creek	Government of Yukon (anticipation of transition to Government of Canada by March 31, 2025)	Remediation planning	Government of Canada
Ketza River	Government of Yukon (anticipation of transition to Government of Canada by March 31, 2025)	Remediation planning	Government of Yukon; a large part of the costs will be recovered from Canada.
Keno	Elsa Reclamation and Development Company	Remediation planning is complete; remediation will be by Elsa Reclamation and Development Company.	Government of Canada
Faro	Government of Canada	Remediation planning is complete; the remediation project is undergoing environmental assessment with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board.	Government of Canada

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

March 19, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Discovery Claims Spill

#27
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are advancing reclamation of an abandoned hydrocarbon-contaminated placer claim block at Discovery Creek.
- The site is on Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation's Category A Settlement Land and we work closely with their government on this file.
- Completion of a detailed Phase Two Environmental Site Assessment this past fall [allowed for excavation of the majority of contaminated soil and has provided options for further work this summer. We are working with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation on scoping a 2025 field program.](#)

Additional response:

- The owner of the claim block at Discovery Creek is deceased. The department's position is that the deceased's estate is liable for the costs for the reclamation of the abandoned claim.
- The deceased's estate has been advised that they are financially liable for all remediation costs; we do not know at this time if the estate has sufficient funds to cover costs.
- We remain committed to working with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation representatives to ensure the site is reclaimed.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in the expedient recovery of hydrocarbons and reclamation of the site.

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Discovery Claims Spill

#27
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Resources

Background:

- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections received an initial spill report on June 14, 2022. An inspector attended the site on June 24, 2022, documented observations, collected soil and water samples, and initiated an investigation.
- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections continued regular visits to the site to conduct additional soil sampling and to replace absorbent materials on July 28, August 4, August 24, and October 21, 2022, until weather prevented further access to the site.
- Throughout the process, Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections staff met regularly with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation representatives to provide updates regarding the site.
- Following unsuccessful attempts by Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections to have the responsible party correct the reclamation and remediation, an Environmental Protection Order and an Inspector's Direction were issued on October 17, 2022.
- Compliance, Monitoring, and Inspections learned that the responsible party was deceased, and no individual could be formally charged for the related infractions.
- The deceased's estate representative has been advised that the Government of Yukon will be undertaking the necessary reclamation requirements outlined in the Inspector's Direction and that the estate would be financially liable for all associated costs. It is unknown if the deceased's estate has sufficient funds to cover the reclamation costs.
- A professional environmental company was hired in June 2023 to remove all totes, drums and open pails of hydrocarbon products from the site to minimize the potential of further spills.
- A limited Phase 2 assessment was conducted in July 2023 to outline the potential spread of contaminants to adjacent environment.
- The assessment delineated some areas of concern and recommended the excavation of contaminated soil adjacent to the fuel storage site.

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Discovery Claims Spill

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- Assessment and laboratory analysis did not confirm any migration of hydrocarbons down slope of mining operation and equipment storage.
- A second, more robust Phase 2 assessment was completed in the summer of 2024, and this also allowed excavation and temporary storage of approximately 1000m3 of contaminated soil – the vast majority of contaminated soil present on site.
- Discussions are ongoing with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation about how to proceed with remediation of the remainder of the site.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

March 19, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

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Faro Mine

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- With the passing of federal Bill C-47 and subsequent territorial legislation, the Government of Canada is now leading all aspects of the Faro Mine Remediation Project, including urgent remedial works.
- We acknowledge the terms and conditions included in the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's final screening report for the Faro Mine Remediation Project.
- Where appropriate, Energy, Mines and Resources is providing support to Executive Council Office's Major Projects Yukon as lead coordinator for the Government of Yukon's participation in the environmental and socio-economic assessment process.

Additional response:

- Part of the important work at Faro Mine is to ensure that necessary activities on site are as low carbon as possible.
- We are planning to monitor greenhouse gas emissions at the Faro Mine site as part of the mining intensity target, which includes emissions from reclamation of abandoned mines.
- We continue to engage with the Government of Canada to stress the importance of ensuring project benefits from the Faro Mine Remediation Project are being realized by the Yukon First Nations, local service providers and communities.

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Faro Mine

Energy, Mines and
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-
- The Government of Yukon participates in the project's governance and provides oversight on the progress towards remediation including efforts to counteract emissions at the site.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in ensuring local contractors and communities benefit from the work at the Faro mine site.

Background:

- In 2018, the Government of Yukon delegated its authority under Section 37 of the Waters Act to the Government of Canada on an interim basis. The Minister of Environment was responsible for determining if actions taken at the site are reasonable to protect the environment under Section 37.
- In 2020, the Governments of Canada and the Yukon signed a Transition Agreement that amended the roles and responsibilities of the Faro Mine Remediation Project.
- On June 22, 2023, Canada passed Bill C-47 which included a provision giving the Government of Canada powers akin to Section 37 of the Waters Act. This amendment is a major milestone in transitioning administration and control of the Faro Mine site from the Yukon to the Government of Canada, a process that started in 2018.
- Both governments have also entered into agreements with Selkirk First Nation and Ross River Dena Council in support of the transition.
- The Transition Agreement allowed the Government of Canada to lead the Faro Mine Remediation Project and take full responsibility for protecting the environment and human health and safety.
- The Transition Agreement was finalized after the Governments of Canada and the Yukon completed consultations.

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Faro Mine

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- The Faro Mine Remediation Project is currently undergoing environmental assessment by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. Canada submitted its Project Proposal in March 2019.
- The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board final screening report was released on November 22, 2024.
- Federal and territorial decision bodies had until December 28, 2024 to conclude First Nation consultation. However, they notified the Executive Committee on December 20 that the deadline could not be achieved due to First Nation office closures over the holiday and that, per YESAA section 46.1, they were extending the deadline in order to fulfill their consultation responsibilities.
- To support the 2018 transition in responsibilities, Canada and Yukon agreed to divide the Faro Mine site complex into parts:
 - Faro Remediation Lands to the west; and
 - Vangorda Lands to the east, made up of two parts;
 - Vangorda Exploration Lands; and
 - Vangorda Plateau Remediation Lands. (See BN #25)
- The work to survey the properties and determine the dividing line between the Faro property and the Vangorda property will begin in Spring 2025.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

January 20, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

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Carbon Rebate – Mining Businesses

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The carbon levy and rebate system is intended to encourage individuals and businesses to innovate and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Government of Yukon's carbon rebate ensures that all federal carbon levies are returned to Yukoners.
- We have simplified the rebate process for small mining businesses so that they receive the carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit on their tax returns. This means mining businesses no longer need to make a separate application for the rebate.

Additional response:

- We are developing a new rebate under the federal Output-Based Pricing System that will return carbon levies collected from larger quartz mines to the mining industry, to deliver an action identified in Our Clean Future, the Yukon climate change strategy. (See BN #57)
- There are currently no Yukon mines contributing to the federal Output-Based Pricing System.
- In fall 2022, we engaged with the mineral industry to develop a new carbon rebate for larger quartz mining operations subject to the federal Output-Based Pricing System. A What We Heard report is available on Yukon.ca.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Victoria Gold Corp. was the Yukon's sole contributor to the federal Output-Based Pricing System. There may be interest in the rollout of the new carbon rebate for mining companies.

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Carbon Rebate – Mining Businesses

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Department of Finance recently changed the carbon rebate regulation for general businesses and to reduce the Super Green Credit, based on clean tech assets.

Background:

- The federal Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act introduced a carbon levy in the Yukon on July 1, 2019.
- The federal Output-Based Pricing System creates a carbon price for large industrial emitters while mitigating carbon leakage risks.
- Yukon's Bill No. 21, the Carbon Price Rebate Amendments Act, received assent on October 24, 2022 and created a new mining rebate that enables mining businesses to receive their carbon rebate as a refundable credit on their tax returns effective January 1, 2023. The rebate provides tax credits based on the value of eligible Yukon mining assets.
- For 2025-26, quartz mines will receive \$16.88 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon mining assets, while placer mining operations will receive \$33.76.
- Placer miners have higher emissions per dollar of assets compared to quartz because of inherent differences in scale and operations. Consequently, the new mining rebate applies an adjustment factor to placer mining assets to increase their rebate amount.
- Clean technology assets that reduce fossil fuel consumption (e.g., electric vehicles) eligible for the Super Green Credit will receive a higher tax credit – \$16.88 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets for quartz-mining operations and \$33.76 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets for placer-mining operations. This is substantially lower than the previous year's credits of \$111 and \$222 per \$1,000 of assets respectively.
- The Government of Yukon is determining the mechanism by which levies collected through the Output-Based Pricing System will be returned to the mining industry. Currently no Yukon mines in production are large enough to qualify for the system.

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Carbon Rebate – Mining Businesses

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The pre-2023 mining rebate provided 100 per cent of carbon levies paid for production on eligible placer mining claims, and 100 per cent of the carbon levy paid on the first 6 kilotonnes of greenhouse gas emissions for quartz-mining operations and 50 per cent of the carbon levy paid on emissions between 6 and 10 kilotonnes.

Approved by:

Heather Mills

January 24, 2025

Acting Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Mining Intensity Target

Recommended response:

- Last fall we amended the *Clean Energy Act* to set an intensity-based target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the mining sector, completing action I9 in *Our Clean Future*.
- The mining intensity target is a 45 per cent reduction in the mining sector's greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 2035.
- An intensity-based target allows for trends to be tracked regardless of how many mines are operational at any one time. It will show our progress in reducing mining-related greenhouse gas emissions and encourage mine operators to adopt low carbon practices.

Additional response:

- We have turned our attention to collecting data for our first reporting year.
- Implementation of the approach will include comprehensive engagement with industry to ensure it is designed to work within the Yukon's unique context.
- The mining intensity approach recognizes the differences between separate quartz and placer operations throughout their mining lifecycles, including post-production.
- Including post-production and abandoned mines in the target means that emissions from projects like the Faro Mine remediation will also be captured in annual reporting on progress.

Session Briefing Note

Mining Intensity Target

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Keno Hill is currently the only quartz mine in operation since Victoria Gold experienced a failure of its heap leach facility in June 2024.
- The Government of Canada is seeking regulatory approval to begin remediation of the Faro mine. It is anticipated that GHG emissions from this remediation will be significant.

Background:

- Since 2022, quartz mines have been required to estimate their greenhouse gas emissions, identify reduction measures, and report on greenhouse gas emissions.
- The percentage of emissions from mining is variable year-to-year. From 2009-2020, it contributed 8 to 15 per cent of the Yukon's total greenhouse gas emissions.
- A target of an overall mining emissions intensity reduction of 45 per cent below 2023 levels for 2035 and subsequent years was announced during the spring 2023 legislative session.
- Energy, Mines and Resources worked with a consultant to inform the development of baselines and benchmarks to measure progress towards the target.
- During spring 2024, the consultant and Energy, Mines and Resources presented the results and proposed baseline methodology to industry at a series of in-person and virtual meetings.
- Using data provided through the quartz mine licensing process and from fuel tax data, the Government of Yukon will track the sector's progress toward achieving greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.
- Canada's approach to pricing carbon pollution for emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries, such as mining, includes an Output-Based Pricing System. Depending on their size, quartz mines in the Yukon may be subject to this system.
- The Department of Finance is leading a separate project to see how to return carbon levies collected from larger mines under the Output-Based Pricing System. No Yukon mines have their levies currently collected under this system. Energy, Mines and Resources is assisting with this work. (See BN #32)

Session Briefing Note
Mining Intensity Target**Approved by:**

Heather Mills

January 24, 2025

Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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Carbon Rebate

Finance

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the territory and to supporting Yukoners in their transition to green alternatives.
- As one part of that commitment, the government created the Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate program.
- The Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate has been tremendously successful at supporting Yukon individuals as they reduce their emissions. In 2019 we estimated that Yukon households accounted for 29.1 per cent of emissions. They now represent only 23.6 per cent.
- Since its inception, the Super Green Credit, a portion of the business rebate designed to fund green alternatives such as solar panels, has also had remarkable exponential growth. In the first year of the program, this credit provided approximately \$15,000 for green investments. Three years later, in 2022-2023 the Super Green Credit provided approximately \$3.5 million in funding towards green investments.
- [On March 14, Prime Minister Mark Carney signed an O.I.C. that ended the federal consumer carbon levy beginning April 1, 2025.](#)
- [The Government of Yukon is reviewing the implications of this federal decision, as the territory will no longer receive revenues to sustain that program.](#)

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Carbon Rebate

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Additional response:

- Since its inception, the Yukon's carbon rebate has been revenue-neutral, over time, and ensured that all federal revenues were returned to Yukoners while also ensuring that rebate groups received, on average, more than they pay in carbon pricing.
- As I mentioned, the end of the federal carbon price means that the Yukon will no longer receive revenues to sustain the carbon rebate program. As Minister of Finance, I have written to the federal government, requesting collaboration on a systematic wind-down of the Yukon carbon rebate program.
- While the federal carbon price will end following the actions taken by the federal government, the Government of Yukon continues to assess its options.

Third response (see relevant subsection below):

Carbon rebate regulation changes

- The Carbon Price Rebate General Regulation was amended on December 19, 2024, to reallocate 8.5 per cent of the proceeds from federal pollution pricing from individuals to businesses.
- Additionally, adjustments were made to the formula used to calculate the annual rebate amount for the Super Green Credit, ensuring it better reflects current trends in emissions and claims.
- To maintain revenue neutrality and guarantee that all groups receive more in rebates than they pay in pollution pricing, the Department of Finance conducts regular reviews of the Yukon Government Carbon

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Price Rebate. These reviews assess how rebates are distributed and identify areas for improvement.

- Recommendations for changes to the regulation are made when warranted by these reviews.
- The latest update represents the seventh amendment to the regulation and the third instance where the allocation of rebate proceeds among different groups has been adjusted.
- A significant increase in claims for the Super Green Credit by businesses, coupled with a decline in the proportion of emissions attributed to individuals, were the primary factors driving these regulatory changes.
- These adjustments aim to ensure the rebate system remains equitable and responsive to changing patterns of emissions and claims.

Rebate for individuals

- The rebate amount for individuals for the 2024–25 rebate year is \$310, or \$77.50 per quarter. The rebate amount for the 2025–26 rebate year is \$380, or \$95 per quarter.
- Yukoners living outside of Whitehorse receive an additional supplement of 20 per cent.
- One person, per household, will receive a rebate for all individuals in that household. Payment is made to the first individual who files their tax return.

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Rebate for general businesses (other than mining)

- Yukon businesses receive their carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit. The rebate is calculated based on the value of business assets and includes incentives to invest in clean technology.
- The business rebate for 2024–25 is \$22.00 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon assets. The business rebate for 2025–26 is \$2.06 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon assets.
- The Department of Finance has taken numerous steps to ensure awareness of the business rebate program.
- As a result, there has been a significant increase in participation in the program, especially with respect to the Super Green Credit. This has led to a temporary depletion of funds. The rebate amount has been reduced due to recent oversubscription to prior year's programs.
- For 2024–25, the Super Green Credit provides a rebate of \$111 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets, which includes eligible solar energy systems, electric vehicles, and charging systems. For 2025–26, the Super Green Credit provides a rebate of \$6.15 per \$1,000.
- With the recent prorogation of parliament, there has been uncertainty about the tax-free status of the federal Canada Carbon Rebate for Small Businesses. Despite former Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland's November 2024 assurances that the Canada Carbon Rebate for Small Business would be tax-free, the lack of legislative changes due to the prorogation of the House of Commons, has led the CRA to clarify that the rebate is treated as taxable income.

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Canada Carbon Rebate for Small Businesses

- The Canada Carbon Rebate for Small Businesses applies in all provinces except British Columbia and Quebec. The rebate does not apply in any territory. Payments amounting to \$2.5 billion were issued to small businesses in December, 2024.
- After Minister Freeland's announcement that the rebate would be tax free, the Department of Finance wrote to the federal government to understand their intention with respect to the tax status of the Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate for businesses. Federal officials indicated that federal legislative changes will be required to change the tax treatment of the business rebate. No indications have been provided as to when those changes will be tabled in parliament.

Rebate for mining businesses

- In 2023 a new mining business rebate was established, structured in the same way as the general business rebate. The rebate includes a Super Green Credit to encourage mining companies to adopt cleaner technology.
- The mining business rebate for 2024–25 is \$36.57 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon mining assets. Mining assets eligible for the Super Green Credit are eligible for a rebate of \$111 per \$1,000 of asset costs. Recognizing the difference in capital intensity between different mining operations, additional weight is applied to placer mining assets to increase their rebate amounts.
- The mining business rebate for 2025–26 is \$16.88 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon mining assets. Mining assets eligible for the Super Green Credit will receive a rebate of \$16.88 per \$1,000 of assets.

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Finance

Agriculture

- The federal government determines who is exempt from paying the carbon levy. The federal government made the decision to exempt agriculture to avoid increasing the cost of food for all Canadians.
- Farmers who buy non-exempt fuel for ancillary purposes can claim the Yukon business carbon rebate on their tax return.

First Nations governments (see annex for further details)

- Each First Nations governments receive an allocation based on the formula in Chapter 19 of the Umbrella Final Agreement.

Municipal governments (see annex for further details)

- Municipal governments receive carbon rebates on April 1 each year.
- The percentage that each municipal government receives is outlined in the Carbon Price Rebate General Regulation.

Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS)

- The OBPS is a method of carbon pricing designed to support emission intensive trade exposed industry. It is intended to avoid carbon leakage. Carbon leakage refers to the situation where businesses transfer production to other countries with more lenient emission constraints to avoid carbon pricing.
- Industrial facilities that are registered under the OBPS are able to purchase charge-free fuel. OBPS facilities are instead subject to the carbon price on the portion of their emissions that exceed an annual output-based emissions limit.
- The Government of Yukon is developing an OBPS rebate program.

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- In the Yukon, the only facilities that may meet the OBPS thresholds for voluntary participation (10 kilotonnes) or mandatory participation (50 kilotonnes) are quartz mines. There is currently only one facility registered in the OBPS in the Yukon.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- On March 14, 2025, Prime Minister Mark Carney signed an O.I.C. to end the federal fuel charge. The Prime Minister committed to delivering one final rebate payment to individuals in April 2025 in provinces where the Canada Carbon Rebate for individuals is paid.
- No date is available yet regarding the end of the Canada Carbon Rebate for small business.
- On February 25, 2025, Yukon Minister of Finance Sandy Silver 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.
- On December 19, 2024, The Carbon Price Rebate General Regulation was amended to change the rebate share allocated to general businesses and individuals. This change reflects the changing shares of emissions since the program's inception. Of the total carbon revenue collected in the Yukon, we are distributing 44.5 per cent to general businesses, 36.5 per cent to individuals, 12 per cent to mining businesses, and 3.5 per cent to both First Nations and municipal governments.
- Subsequent to the regulation amendment, the 2025–26 business and mining rebate rates were posted on yukon.ca/en/doing-business/taxation/learn-about-yukons-carbon-rebate.
- On November 12, 2024, then-federal Department of Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland announced on X (Twitter) that the Canada Carbon Rebate for business would be tax-free. Minister Freeland did not mention whether Canada intended to

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change the taxation treatment for the Yukon Government Carbon Rebate for businesses. The federal government has taxed these rebates since 2019.

Background:

- The federal Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act received royal assent on June 21, 2018. The federal carbon pollution pricing system has two parts:
 - a regulatory charge on fossil fuels (i.e., the carbon levy or fuel charge), and
 - a regulatory trading system for large facilities (i.e., the federal OBPS).
 - Pricing carbon pollution is a central pillar of Canada's efforts to address climate change through the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. The federal government's climate plan set the Canada-wide carbon price at \$20 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions beginning in 2019. The price is currently \$80 per tonne as of April 1, 2024, and will rise \$15 a year to \$170 per tonne in 2030.
 - In designing rebate programs, the Government of Yukon considered how to address the principles established in the *Pan-Canadian Framework*, namely:
 - "Carbon pricing policies should include revenue recycling to avoid a disproportionate burden on vulnerable groups and Indigenous peoples", and
 - "Carbon pricing policies should minimize competitiveness impacts and carbon leakage, particularly for emissions-intensive, trade-exposed sectors."
 - In November 2023, Canada began reducing the charge-free emissions limit for OBPS facilities. These changes were not included in the original Pan-Canadian Framework carbon pricing discussions. This change increases the potential money raised by the OBPS in Yukon and the cost imposed on industry.
 - 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 had indicated the consumer carbon levy would be eliminated "immediately". No specific dates or timelines have been provided yet.
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- 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, Yukon 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.
 - On March 14, 2025, Prime Minister Mark Carney delivered on his commitment to end the consumer carbon levy. An O.I.C. was passed to end the federal fuel charge after March 31, 2025. The Prime Minister committed to delivering one final rebate payment to individuals in April 2025.

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Carbon Rebate

Appendix

Federal fuel charge rates applicable in the Yukon (cents per litre unless specified)

Date of increase*	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
\$ per tonne	20	30	40	50	65	80	95	110	125	140	155	170
Gasoline	4.4	6.6	8.8	11.1	14.4	17.7	21.0	24.3	27.6	30.9	34.3	37.6
Light fuel oil	5.4	8.1	10.7	13.4	17.4	21.5	25.5	29.5	33.5	37.5	41.6	45.6
Propane	3.1	4.6	6.2	7.7	10.1	12.4	14.7	17.0	19.4	21.7	24.0	26.3
Natural gas**	3.9	5.9	7.8	9.8	12.7	15.7	18.6	21.5	24.5	27.4	30.3	33.3

Aviation turbo fuel and gasoline are exempt

*July 1 for 2019, April 1 for future years ** Per cubic meter

Estimated fuel use in Yukon versus rebate

	Rebate (% of total)	Estimated shares of carbon levies paid by rebate group				
		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
General businesses	44.5%	48.26%	49.29%	34.50%	35.00%	34.70%
Mining businesses	12.0%	-	-	11.50%	10.70%	11.50%
Yukon individuals	36.5%	27.67%	26.56%	26.80%	25.20%	23.60%
Municipal governments	3.50%	2.47%	2.27%	2.60%	3.40%	3.50%
First Nations governments	3.50%	0.36%	2.09%	2.80%	2.10%	2.10%
Visitors (tourists)	0.00%	8.90%	7.66%	8.50%	9.80%	10.80%
Government of Yukon	0.00%	11.21%	11.03%	12.10%	12.60%	12.60%
Government of Canada	0.00%	0.56%	0.57%	0.70%	0.80%	0.90%
Other	0.00%	0.57%	0.54%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%

These estimates rely on data from Statistics Canada that is subject to a significant lag. Changes should generally be interpreted as adjustments based on more recent data, rather than changes in actual consumption.

Estimated levies and rebates to individuals

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Levy paid by individual	\$131.43	\$157.59	\$179.11	\$160.11	\$155.50
Rebate to individuals	\$176.00	\$320.00	\$372.00	\$310.00	\$380.00
Remote supplement	\$17.60	\$32.00	\$37.20	\$62.00	\$76.00

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Carbon Rebate

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Yukon general business rebate amounts by on asset class

(per \$1,000 in assets)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Building rebate	\$4.41	\$19.81	\$10.95	\$11.10	\$1.03
Equipment rebate	\$22.03	\$99.05	\$54.73	\$55.50	\$5.13
Green rebate	\$44.05	\$198.10	\$109.45	\$111.00	\$6.15

Yukon mining business rebate amounts by on asset class

	(per \$1,000 in assets)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
<i>Placer mining businesses</i>	Buildings and equipment rebate	\$84.32	\$72.94	33.76
	Green rebate	\$437.80	\$222.00	33.76
<i>Quartz mining businesses</i>	Buildings and equipment rebate	\$21.08	\$36.47	16.88
	Green rebate	\$109.45	\$111.00	16.88

Allocation amongst First Nation's share

First Nation	Percentage of First Nation's Total
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	7.2886%
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations	11.3420%
Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation	8.9878%
Kluane First Nation	4.1276%
Kwanlin Dun First Nation	8.8169%
Liard First Nation	10.1364%
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation	6.4153%
First Nation of Na-Cho Ny'ak Dun	5.9976%
Ross River Dena Council	5.9122%
Selkirk First Nation	6.8425%
Ta'an Kwach'an Council	5.0579%
Teslin Tlingit Council	7.6873%
Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation	7.8962%
White River First Nation	3.4916%

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Carbon Rebate

TAB #16
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Allocation amongst Municipalities' share

Municipality	Percentage of Municipalities' Total
Carmacks	2.4975%
Dawson City	9.6566%
Faro	2.1070%
Haines Junction	4.2767%
Mayo	2.4492%
Teslin	2.4321%
Watson Lake	6.3431%
Whitehorse	70.2378%

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz
Deputy Minister, Finance

March 26, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation by building infrastructure that supports electric vehicles.
- To date, the Government of Yukon has installed 20 fast charger stations across the Yukon to electrify the highways; including a new charger at Canol road.
- In addition, one level 2 charger is now operational at Swift River, providing safety for vehicles travelling to and from Watson Lake.

Additional response:

- Thanks to the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Regulation, EV charging station owners can now charge a fee for use. Congratulations to Whitehorse Motors, which installed their own fast charger and have made it publicly accessible for a fee.
- We are working towards enabling the Government of Yukon to charge a fee at our fast-charging EV stations this year.
- Thanks to federal funding, we are offering incentives to individuals, businesses, First Nations governments, and municipalities to off-set the costs of installing level 2 electric vehicle charging stations.
- Our goal is to see 200 level 2 chargers owned by businesses, organizations and local governments by March 2025. By January 1, 2025 we have supported 81 non-residential and 62 residential installations.

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Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- We are following the potential imposition of U.S. tariffs closely. We may consider changes to our zero-emission vehicle rebate program as the situation develops.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Electric vehicle use is increasing, and the public may be interested in the growth of an electric vehicle charging network in the Yukon and neighbouring jurisdictions.
- There may be questions about when the Government of Yukon will charge a fee at our network, and progress to date.
- There may be questions about zero-emission vehicles and the U.S. tariffs.

Background:

- Our Clean Future commits the government to a target of 4,800 zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030. (See BN #54)
- The Clean Energy Act commits the government to 10 per cent light-duty electric vehicle sales by 2025 and 30 per cent by 2030.
- In 2023, the Government of Canada announced the Electric Vehicle Availability Standard, which established regulated targets that require at least 60 per cent of vehicle sales nationwide to be zero-emission vehicles by 2030, and 100 per cent by 2035.
- As of January 1, 2025, 597 zero-emissions vehicles are registered in the Yukon.
- Zero-emissions vehicles were approximately 11.4 per cent of light-duty vehicle sales in 2024 Q4.
- The Government of Yukon operates 20 direct current fast chargers in road-connected communities throughout the Yukon and one level 2 charger at Swift River. This includes “Level 2.5” remote chargers (faster than level two, but not as fast as fast chargers) at Mendenhall, Burwash Landing and Beaver Creek and on the Canol Road.

Session Briefing Note

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Highways and Public Works are working to fill critical gaps between chargers throughout winter and spring 2025 at the Dempster Corner, Braeburn and Junction 37.
- On Friday February 14, the EV charging station at Army Beach was damaged by a vehicle fire and is currently not operational. There are no signs that the charging station malfunctioned or was the cause of the incident.
- The station will remain out of service until repairs can be made and technicians can verify that the station is safe to operate.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

March 4, 2025

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Energy Programs

Spring 2025Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are taking action on climate change by increasing the Yukon's use of renewable energy and reducing our energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Our energy incentive programs offer cost-saving, emission-reducing options to the Yukon's residents, businesses, organizations and municipal and First Nations governments.
- We have secured additional funding from the Government of Canada for our Affordable Heat Pump Program and have re-opened applications for this program. The new combined funding for the program is \$8.6 million, up from \$2.3 million.
- We will be first processing applications that had been on our waitlist. To date, 84 households have been pre-approved to receive funding for their heat pump installations.
- Innovative programs like the Better Buildings Program, combined with our Good Energy rebates, make energy retrofits accessible and affordable for Yukoners.

Additional Response:

- Energy, Mines and Resources is working closely with the Yukon Development Corporation and utilities to plan for current and future energy demand and to explore options for grid modernization.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Energy Programs

Energy, Mines and
Resources

-
- As of January 1, 2025, 597 zero emission vehicles were registered in the territory. We are seeing 11.4% of sales are zero emission vehicles. We have issued rebates for over 1,500 electric bicycles.
 - We are following the potential imposition of U.S. tariffs closely. We may consider changes to our zero-emission vehicle rebate program as the situation develops.
 - As of January 1, 2025, 317 high-performance retrofits to existing residential, commercial and institutional buildings have been completed across the territory. We have issued rebates for 219 residential and commercial smart electric heating systems and 543 rebates for highly energy-efficient new homes.
 - We have given rebates for over 500 energy-efficient new homes since 2020, surpassing our target five years ahead of schedule.

Additional response (if asked about Yukon Energy's Strategic Plan, electric heat, or electric vehicles):

- The Yukon government recognizes that transitioning to low-carbon heating and transportation sources, such as heat pumps and electric vehicles, increases demand on Yukon's electrical system.
- The Yukon Energy Corporation's strategic plan addresses these growing stresses on the grid with a comprehensive approach, including short, medium, and long-term plans to ensure the territory's electrical grid remains robust, resilient, and renewable.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Energy Programs

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources will continue to collaborate with the Yukon Energy Corporation, the Yukon Development Corporation, ATCO and Yukon First Nation governments to achieve this goal while we continue to act to reduce the territory's greenhouse gas emissions.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about what the government is doing to reach its targets in Our Clean Future. (See BN #54)
- Grid power outages, energy supply, and increasing electricity prices have been reported by the Yukon's media and raised by opposition MLA's in the legislature.
- There may be questions about the Affordable Heat Pump Program.
- There may be questions about zero-emission vehicle rebates and the U.S. tariffs.

Background:

Clean transportation

- Our Clean Future targets 4,800 zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030.
- Our Clean Future targets fast-charging stations across the Yukon to make it possible to travel between all road-accessible Yukon communities by 2027. As of 2024, all road-accessible communities in the Yukon are within reach of a public electric vehicle fast charger.
- Rebates for 75 per cent of costs of level two chargers (designed for home and business use) are available to businesses, and 90 per cent of costs for Yukon First Nations governments, corporations and municipalities. (See BN #35)

Renewable heating

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: March 3, 2025
Last updated: March 27, 2025

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Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Energy Programs

Energy, Mines and Resources

- Our Clean Future targets the installation of 1,300 smart electric heating devices. To date, we have supported 219 commercial and residential smart electric heating systems and uptake is increasing.
- Our Clean Future targets the installation of 20 large commercial and institutional biomass systems by 2030 in non-Yukon government buildings. To date, we have supported nine commercial and institutional biomass projects through our energy incentive programs.
- We are also aware of four commercial and institutional biomass projects that were commissioned prior to our incentive programs, for a total of thirteen systems.

High-performance buildings (new and existing)

- Our Clean Future targets 2,000 high-performance retrofits to non-government buildings. As of January 1, 2025, 317 high-performance retrofits in existing buildings have been completed.
- Yukoners can access the Better Buildings Program and our Good Energy rebates to assist with the cost of comprehensive energy retrofits.
- Since the release of Our Clean Future, we have issued 543 rebates for high-performing new homes. Our Clean Future targets 500 rebates for net-zero energy-ready new homes by 2030.

Better Buildings Program

- As of January 1, 2025, there are twelve clients actively participating in the Better Buildings program with funding agreements signed with the Department of Community Services for a total of \$471,560. Nine of the active clients are in Whitehorse, one in Marsh Lake, and two are in Haines Junction.

Approved by:

Heather Mills

April 9, 2025

Acting Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: March 3, 2025
Last updated: March 27, 2025

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Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Independent Power Production
(IPP)**Yukon Development
Corporation
Yukon Energy
Corporation

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon developed the Independent Power Production policy to enable entrepreneurs, communities, and Yukon First Nation governments to generate renewable energy and sell it to the main electrical grid or micro-grid in diesel-dependent communities.
- The Independent Power Production Policy includes three programs: the Standing Offer Program; Unsolicited Proposals; and Call for Power.
- Due to significant interest and uptake by Yukoners, the Standing Offer Program is fully subscribed and the utilities have expressed the need to strengthen the main electrical grid before adding more intermittent renewable sources.
- There is currently a study underway on microgeneration and independent power production in the Yukon. The results of this study will help inform future developments to the Independent Power Producer Policy and programs.

Additional response

- Solar projects that were in the queue for the main electrical grid have been canceled so as not to jeopardize grid reliability. The Watson Lake Solar project is on-going, as it is on the Watson Lake micro-grid.
- Acceptance to the Independent Power Production Standing Offer Program does not guarantee funding for projects through the

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Independent Power Production (IPP)

Yukon Development
Corporation
Yukon Energy
Corporation

Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative or that an Electricity Purchase Agreement will be signed.

If asked about Call for Power program:

- Yukon Energy plans to issue one or more Calls to Power over the next five years, with the approval of the government, to incorporate large-scale winter renewable Independent Power Producer projects into Yukon's electrical system.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is strong First Nations, municipal, and private sector interest in renewable energy and in government support for such initiatives.
- Some Independent Power Producers have expressed concerns about the high costs of connection.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Independent Power Production
(IPP)**Yukon Development
CorporationYukon Energy
Corporation

Background

- The Standing Offer Program has an annual limit of 40-gigawatt hours of electricity purchased by the utilities.

	Number of Projects	Combined Capacity (MW)	Combined Energy (GWh)	% of Program Cap (40 GWh)
EPAs Executed and Connected to the Grid	7	9.35	20.08	50%
EPAs Executed and Connected to Micro Grid Diesel	4	2.95	1.86	N/A
EPAs Executed and Not Connected	1	4.7	TBD	N/A
Total	12	17	21.94	50%

- There were three studies in the queue for the Independent Power Production program which have been canceled to avoid jeopardizing grid reliability. These projects will not be considered under the program.
- Oro Enterprises Ltd., the proponent of the proposed 2 MW New Era North Fork Hydro project in Dawson City, was the eleventh proponent in the queue. On January 29, 2024, Oro Enterprises Inc informed Yukon Energy that the North Fork Project was cancelled.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Independent Power Production
(IPP)**Yukon Development
Corporation
Yukon Energy
Corporation

- Twelve Independent Power Production projects have signed Energy Purchase Agreements with their respective utility. Of these, eleven are actively producing electricity.
 1. Solvest's North Klondike solar project - Whitehorse (active)
 2. Nomad Construction and Electrical Services' Mt.Sima solar project - Whitehorse (active)
 3. Vuntut Gwitchin Government's Sree Vyaa solar project - Old Crow (active)
 4. Klondike Development Organization's Dome Road solar project - Dawson City (active)
 5. Chu Níikwän Eagle Hill (Haeckel Hill) I (active)
 6. Chu Níikwän Eagle Hill (Haeckel Hill) II (active)
 7. Kluane First Nation's Nt'si wind project - Kluane Lake (anticipated to be in service in 2025)
 8. Takhini IPP -Arctic Pharm's solar project - Whitehorse (connected July 2024)
 9. Sunergy's solar project - Haines Junction (active)
 - 10.Beaver Creek Solar Project (connected August 2024) and
 - 11.Daylu Dena Council - Lower Post solar project (active)

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

**Independent Power Production
(IPP)**

Yukon Development
Corporation

Yukon Energy
Corporation

- The twelfth project is being developed by First Kaska to provide power to the Watson Lake micro-grid and is anticipated to be connected in 2027. The Sade Initiative project is being partially funded through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The federal program is contributing \$18,000,000 towards the project.
- Funding is available in 2024-2025 for prospective renewable energy projects through the Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative.

Approved by:

Daniel Carrick-Specht
a/President, Yukon Development Corporation

March 6, 2025
Date approved

Chris Milner
President and CEO, Yukon Energy

March 5, 2025
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR Commitments

Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Forty-two new actions were added to Our Clean Future in 2023. Of these, 20 actions are assigned to Energy, Mines and Resources on topics including energy, forestry, and climate change adaptation.
- The department leads one-third of Our Clean Future actions, a total of 60 commitments aiming to increase renewable energy production, improve energy efficiency, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Notable achievements to date include:
 - On November 21, 2024, we amended the *Clean Energy Act* to establish the territory's first emissions reduction target for the mining sector.
 - Early in 2024, we enabled the private sale of electricity through electric vehicle charging stations to support clean transportation.
 - We have issued over 500 rebates for new energy-efficient homes since 2020, five years ahead of schedule.

Additional response:

- The department has successfully completed 20 of its 60 actions. A further 10 actions are ongoing as they have been integrated into operations and service delivery to the public. The remaining 30 actions are underway.
- We continue to support many Yukoners to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions by giving rebates for electric bicycles and zero-emissions vehicles and expanding the Yukon's network of electric vehicle charging stations.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR Commitments

Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and Resources

- We continue to work with partners and stakeholders to ensure Yukon's electrical grid is predominantly powered by renewable sources.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about Energy, Mines and Resources' progress in implementing its key actions under Our Clean Future. The 2023 Our Clean Future and *Clean Energy Act* reports were released in November 2024. The previous annual report included new commitments.

Background:

- Under Our Clean Future Phase II, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is responsible for 60 actions. Most of these actions are energy-related or have energy implications in the Yukon.
- The *Act to Amend the Clean Energy Act* gained assent on November 21, 2024.
- Some of the actions are energy programs and rebates; public outreach programs; and half (30 actions) can be achieved through legislation and existing resources. (See BN #36)
- Our Clean Future included two commitments to increase the amount of renewable fuel in both diesel and gasoline fuel pools by 2025 (Actions T9 and T10). (See BN #44)
 - These actions strive to have approximately 20 per cent of diesel consisting of biodiesel or renewable diesel by volume, approximately 10 per cent of gasoline consisting of ethanol by volume by 2025 and a 30 per cent emissions intensity reduction overall by 2030.
- Our Clean Future notable achievements on targets as of January 1, 2025, include:
 - Expanding the government's electric vehicle fast charger network to 20 publicly available units in all road-accessible communities and one level 2 charger in Swift River.
 - Achieving 10.4 megawatts of renewable electricity from distributed solar PV systems.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR Commitments

Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and Resources

- Since 2020, supporting the construction of 543 high-performance homes that are at least 50 per cent more energy efficient than building code standards, surpassing our 2030 target.
- Installing and monitoring 28 electric heat pumps in Yukon homes during a pilot project to assess heat pumps in a cold climate, publishing yearly monitoring reports on lessons learned.
- Supporting the installation of 219 smart electric heating devices.
- Reaching 597 light duty zero-emission vehicles registered in the territory thanks to vehicle rebates and investment in charging stations.
- Providing over 1,500 rebates for electric bicycles.

Nuclear:

- In 2022, Calian Nuclear Ltd. delivered a report called 'Feasibility Study of Small Modular Reactors in the Yukon'. As part of the contract, Calian conducted focus groups and interviews with a small number (23) of stakeholders to assess perceptions and opinions towards nuclear power generation. This was captured in a separate report called 'SMR in the Yukon Engagement Report'.
- The Feasibility Study of Small Modular Reactors in the Yukon report was posted on Yukon.ca on August 7, 2023.
- The Government of Yukon has not decided on whether to adopt Small Modular Reactor technology in the territory. We are aware of, and monitoring, the research being conducted on nuclear power generation in other Canadian jurisdictions.

Hydrogen:

- In spring 2021, the Government of Yukon contracted Navius Research to develop a report called 'Potential of hydrogen to help decarbonize the Yukon' exploring how the adoption of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies could further reduce emissions in the Yukon's energy production and transportation sectors.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR

Commitments

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Government of Yukon is currently exploring options to further this work through the scoping of a hydrogen pilot project using fuel injection technology with diesel vehicles.

OCF Actions Impact on the Electrical Grid:

- The department has modeled the potential impact of OCF actions on the territory's electrical grid and found that these actions would result in an increase of electrical demand of approximately 2.4 per cent by 2030.
- While some actions have a significant potential load growth, many actions also act to reduce electrical demand through the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation.
- Electrification of heating and transportation is part of a broader market transformation globally for which OCF is only one contributing factor.
- Without OCF actions, electric vehicles are expected to result in a 5 per cent increase in electrical loads by 2030. This increases to 7 per cent when we include OCF actions to promote electric vehicles into the model.
- Without OCF actions, electric heating is expected to contribute 15 per cent to electrical demand growth by 2030. This number does not increase significantly because of OCF actions because these actions promote homes to be more energy efficient and use less heat.
- This also promotes the use of heat pumps, which are much more energy efficient forms of electric heat than electric baseboards, and are commonly used today.

Approved by:

Heather Mills

April 10, 2025

Acting Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note
Renewable Energy
Initiatives**

Recommended response:

- We are investing in local renewable energy projects, creating business opportunities in the growing clean energy sector, and encouraging the purchase of green technologies.
- We have extended the pause for the micro-generation program until January 2026 and expanded it to include the entire Yukon Integrated System. During this time, we are working with public utilities to study the impacts of variable generation on the grid and identify solutions to ensure grid reliability.
- The first phase of the research is complete and validates the need for the pause and the expansion; the second phase of the research is looking at mitigation measures and solutions and will be completed in 2025.
- Small-scale solar systems have enjoyed strong popularity and there are currently more than 22.1 megawatts of direct current solar capacity installed, including over 10 megawatts through the micro-generation program.
- The Haeckel Hill wind project adds 4.0 MW of capacity to the Yukon's main power grid.

Additional response:

- We are providing funding to building owners to install efficient electric heat pumps and biomass heating systems that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from heating buildings.
- Yukoners are installing renewable energy generating systems at such

**Session Briefing Note
Renewable Energy
Initiatives**

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

a high rate that we achieved our micro-generation target of seven megawatts, seven years ahead of schedule.

- Energy Purchase Agreements have been signed by 12 independent power production (IPP) projects. Of these, 11 are producing electricity.

Additional response (if asked about Yukon Energy Corporation's Strategic Plan, electric heat, or electric vehicles):

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that transitioning to low-carbon heating and transportation sources, such as heat pumps and electric vehicles, increases demand on Yukon's electrical system.
- Yukon Energy's Road Map to 2050 and the five-year strategic plan outline the plans, partnerships, and capital investments needed to build a stronger, more renewable power system for Yukoners. (YDC/YEC Tab #43 – Strategic Planning)
- Reliability is at the core of Yukon Energy's strategy over the next five years, as it focuses on increasing the supply of dependable winter power to meet growing demands and building a more resilient power system.
- Looking forward, Yukon Development Corporation, Yukon Energy Corporation, Energy, Mines and Resources and First Nations are collaborating to advance long term energy planning to meet growing energy demands and further Our Clean Future's aspirational goal of 97 per cent renewable electricity.

Session Briefing Note Renewable Energy Initiatives

- Following best practices, this will include a Pathways Assessment, Energy Roadmap and Integrated Resource Plan to assess, plan for and deliver new reliable sources of affordable and renewable capacity.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is strong interest from First Nations governments, municipalities, the public and industry to install renewable energy systems with support from the government.
- New federal funding has been secured for the Affordable Heat Pump program and intake will re-open. Intake had been paused three weeks after its launch date.
- The micro-generation program was paused in December 2023 to allow the Government of Yukon and the utilities to study the impacts of distributed renewable generation on the grid.

Background:

Our Clean Future

- Our Clean Future commitments include increasing renewable electricity on the Yukon's main grid to 97 per cent (action E1) and setting a target of increasing renewable heating in the Yukon's buildings to 50 per cent by 2030. (See EMR BN #38)

Heat pumps

- We have secured additional funding from the Government of Canada for our Affordable Heat Pump Program and have re-opened applications for this program. The new combined funding for the program is \$8.6 million, up from \$2.3 million.
- We will first be processing applications that had been on our waitlist.
- To date, 84 households have been pre-approved to receive funding for their heat pump installations. (See EMR BN #43)

**Session Briefing Note
Renewable Energy
Initiatives**

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Renewable energy generation: Independent Power Production Policy

- Yukon Development Corporation's Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative provides financial and technical support to Yukon First Nations, municipalities, and community organizations for community-led renewable energy projects. (See EMR BN #35)
- A four-megawatt wind project was installed and commissioned on Thäy Tăw (Haeckel Hill) in 2024. The project is owned by Chu Níkwän.
- Seven solar Independent Power Production (IPP) projects with a total of 8.74 megawatts DC capacity are operating on the main grid.
- 940 kilowatts DC of solar is operating in Old Crow, owned by Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. 118 kilowatts of DC of solar is operating in Lower Post, connected to the Watson Lake micro-grid.
- Two new renewable projects were substantially completed in 2024: solar PV with 1.9 megawatts DC capacity owned by White River First Nation, and a 900 kilowatt wind turbine, owned by Kluane First Nation. Both projects are expected to be fully commissioned by early 2025.
- The Sādę Initiative (Watson Lake Solar) is planned to provide an oversized (1.6) - 4.70MW DC PV connected to 2.85MW AC of inverter capacity. Construction is planned to begin in the spring of 2025 with connection in 2027.

Renewable energy generation: Micro-generation Program

- Our Clean Future (action E10) targets seven megawatts of installed renewable electricity capacity by 2030 through micro-generation. As of January 1, 2025, there were 981 micro-generators connected to the Yukon utility grid which are producing approximately 10 GWh of electricity and exporting 3.7 GWh to the grid.
- Under the micro-generation program, eight First Nations governments, five First Nations Development Corporations have installed 135 renewable energy-generating systems on institutional, commercial and residential buildings throughout the Yukon.

**Session Briefing Note
Renewable Energy
Initiatives**

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

- During the pause of the Micro-generation program, the Government of Yukon and ATCO Electric Yukon will continue to accept applications in communities not connected to the Yukon's Integrated Grid. These include Watson Lake, Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Beaver Creek, and Old Crow.

Biomass

- We have supported nine large-scale commercial and institutional biomass heating projects in the territory. We are also aware of four large-scale biomass heating projects built independently from the Energy Branch's programs.
- Since 2007, the Energy Branch has offered rebates for new, efficient wood-heating systems in existing homes. Uptake of these rebates has been trending down in recent years from 145 in 2008-2009 to 52 in 2023-2024.
- The Energy Branch offered a fuel wood rebate from 2022 to 2023 that had close to 900 applicants.
- Highways and Public Works is installing biomass heating systems in Government of Yukon's buildings and is exploring the potential for biomass and other renewable energy systems in additional buildings. (See EMR BN #45)

Geothermal resources

- The Government of Yukon is committed to advance the development of legislation to regulate geothermal energy development per Our Clean Future (action E11) in partnership with First Nation and transboundary Indigenous governments.
- Geological research is underway on the potential for geothermal as a renewable energy source for heating and electricity. (See EMR BN #81)

Energy storage

- In 2022, the report, Meeting the Yukon's Electricity Needs through 2050, was completed by Navius Research.
- The report asserted that the Yukon's electricity demand is expected to grow, that solar and wind are the most cost-effective options for meeting electricity demand, electricity storage is critical to high penetration of renewables, and that growing demand for electricity will increase generating costs.

EMR #39/YDC #29

Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Session Briefing Note Renewable Energy Initiatives

- Yukon Energy Corporation is working towards completing the grid scale battery and will consider other energy storage solutions with independent power producers through the integrated resource planning process. (See YDC/YEC BN #2)

Approved by:

Heather Mills

Acting Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

April 14, 2025

Date Approved

Daniel Carrick-Specht

April 11, 2025

a/President and CEO

Yukon Development Corporation

Date Approved

Strategic Planning

Yukon Energy
Corporation
Yukon Development
Corporation

Recommended response:

If asked about Yukon Energy Strategic Planning and Road Map to 2050:

- On April 8, 2025, Yukon Energy released its five-year strategic plan *Chapter 1: A Reliable and Robust Grid: 2025 to 2030 and Building a Resilient and Renewable Energy Future – Yukon Energy’s Road Map to 2050*.
- These documents serve as Yukon Energy’s guide to a more resilient and renewable energy future, while ensuring Yukoners have reliable electricity.
- Over the next five years, Yukon Energy will focus on three key priorities to maintain a reliable electricity system:
 - **An Adequate and Dependable Supply of Electricity:** Yukon Energy will upgrade aging infrastructure, advance relicensing for hydro and diesel facilities, build new thermal power centres in the Whitehorse area to provide dependable winter capacity, and deliver programs that help reduce peak demand.
 - **A Strong Electricity System:** Significant investments will be made to expand the capacity of power lines and substations, build new transmission lines, upgrade business systems and invest in a skilled workforce.
 - **Building Tomorrow’s Plan and Partnerships:** Yukon Energy plans to complete a grid modernization plan, and work in collaboration with Yukon Development Corporation to secure critical

investments and construction financing to move projects forward.

If asked about Long Term Planning and Resource Planning:

- Non-industrial peak demand is projected to rise by 50% by 2035 compared to 2020, requiring significant investments in new sources of reliable, affordable, and renewable winter capacity. Yukon Development Corporation – in collaboration with Yukon Energy Corporation, Energy Mines and Resources, and First Nations – is advancing the Pathways Assessment, Energy Roadmap, and Integrated Resource Plan for the Yukon.
 - **Pathways Assessment:** Studies of the available and credible pathways for achieving a net-zero economy by 2050, by evaluating choices and trade-offs, identifying priority actions, and bringing together stakeholders.
 - **Energy Roadmap:** Comprehensive, high-level strategy that guides the development of a net-zero energy system, putting focus on the priority actions required in the near term.
 - **Integrated Resource Plan (IRP):** Utility-centric long-term plan that details how to meet future energy needs in a reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable manner. It considers factors like customer needs and the changing energy landscape, including uncertainties such as technology change and economic growth.

- This long-term energy planning process will follow best practices and be exhaustive, **comprehensive, transparent**, high-level, recurring, and **consultative**.
 - The participatory engagement process will ensure that Indigenous rightsholders, key stakeholders, and the broader public can meaningfully participate.
- Through this work, we are striving towards *Our Clean Future's* aspirational goal of 97% renewable electricity.
- The Yukon-BC Grid Connect feasibility study is one of the steps we are taking right now to explore and advance promising options to meet the Yukon's growing need for more reliable, affordable, and renewable energy.
- We are also exploring other options to increase sustainable power generation in the Yukon through discussions with First Nations and stakeholders, with a focus on increasing renewable winter capacity to meet the growing demand.
- The Yukon is well positioned to seize the opportunity of a low-carbon future to create wealth and prosperity, such as through sustainable development of our critical mineral resources and becoming a net-exporter of renewable energy.

If asked about Yukon Development Corporation:

- Yukon Development Corporation is updating its strategic plan and anticipates completing the exercise by early 2025.

- The YDC Strategic Plan will seek to build out how YDC will accomplish its objectives, as set out in its guiding legislation to:
 - assure a continuing and adequate supply of energy in the Yukon in a manner consistent with sustainable development
 - alleviate the effects of any energy shortage that may occur in the Yukon; and
 - promote the establishment, development and operation within the Yukon of industries or undertakings that are, by their nature, energy dependent through the provision of cost-effective energy or energy-related infrastructure.

If asked about the status of the Advisory Group on Energy Demand and Supply Studies:

- The Yukon Development Corporation is supporting two studies that are jointly being undertaken with ATCO Electric Yukon, Yukon Energy, and the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources, which will help to better understand the planning parameters related to:
 - **The Intermittent Renewable Integration Study:** This study explores the safe limits for the integration of variable sources of energy (like solar and wind) on the Yukon's main grid; and
 - **The Grid Modernization Strategy:** This study focuses on the modernization of the Yukon's main electrical grid substantially built in the 1950s toward an electrical grid that can be managed more dynamically through the integration of technology.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Yukon Energy mentioned that the release of the Electricity Supply Plan would happen in 2024. It is now replaced by a five-year strategic plan *A Reliable and Robust Grid: 2025 to 2030*.

Background

- The strategic planning documents are not the same as Yukon Energy's resource plans. The strategic planning documents chart the path by identifying the vision and priorities while the resource plans are technical processes that assess options on how best to meet Yukon's power needs.
- In 2020, Yukon Energy released a 10-year renewable electricity plan technical report. Through this work Yukon Energy learned many valuable lessons, including that large-scale renewable projects require strong partnerships with First Nations to be successful.
- Yukon Energy's last five-year strategic plan was released in 2019, and outlined 6 key priorities:
 - Generate reliable and renewable energy;
 - Secure long-term sustainable financing;
 - Develop mutually beneficial First Nations partnerships;
 - Achieve excellence in employee engagement;
 - Streamline and clarify governance; and
 - Provide outstanding, reliable customer value.
- Yukon Energy continues to build on these priorities through Chapter 1: *A Reliable and Robust Grid 2025-2030*.

Session Briefing Note

Strategic Planning

TAB #43
Spring 2025

Yukon Energy
Corporation
Yukon Development
Corporation

Approved by:

Daniel Carrick-Specht

a/President, Yukon Development Corporation

March 6, 2025

Date approved

Jason Epp

A/President and CEO, Yukon Energy

March 20, 2025

Date approved

Recommended response

- Yukoners rely on electricity for almost every aspect of daily life, and this means the system needs to grow faster than ever before.
- Yukon Energy is rising to the challenge by building a dependable system that can meet the territory's electricity needs and set us up for the next generation of community renewables.
- [Between 2015 and 2020, peak demands for electricity increased by 25%, and this trend is expected to continue with an additional 40% increase in non-industrial peak demand between 2020 and 2030.](#)
- Yukon Energy [has a new road](#) map for the next twenty-five years that unfolds in three stages ([Tab #43 – Planning-Strategic](#)).
- Over the next five years, Yukon Energy will focus on building a reliable and robust grid and planning for the build out of more renewable energy.
- This will be made possible through a dependable local supply of electricity and backup capacity, capable of meeting growing winter demands and withstanding challenges like droughts, emergencies and fluctuations in solar and wind energy production.

Additional response

- In 2024, around 82% of the electricity Yukon Energy generated came from renewable resources.
- The remaining 18% of the electricity generated came from thermal resources, of which approximately 10% was Liquefied Natural Gas and 8% was diesel (about half of this from rental diesel units).
- This is lower than the Yukon's 25-year average, which is over 90% renewable thanks to our hydro generating stations.

- Yukon Energy used more thermal resources this winter to generate electricity for a few reasons:
 - Lower-than-average inflows of water into the Aishihik reservoir last spring and summer. Less water means a limited ability to produce hydropower.
 - The Aishihik hydro facility is the largest source of winter hydropower in the Yukon and usually produces about 40% of the electricity Yukon Energy generates each winter.
 - Equipment repairs at the Aishihik and Mayo Generating Stations.
 - One of the generators at the Aishihik Generating Station continues to be offline.
 - Growing demands for power in the Yukon.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Yukoners want to ensure there is an adequate and reliable electricity supply, especially during cold winter days.
 - The Opposition has raised concerns about the use of rental diesel generators to meet peak demand.
-

Background:

- Yukon's residential and commercial peak demand for power in winter 2024/25 was around 105 megawatts.
- Yukon Energy currently has 22 rental diesel units available for operation in their fleet.

Session Briefing Note

Electricity Supply

TAB #23
Spring 2025
Yukon Energy
Corporation

Historical Percentage Renewable

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5-Year Average	25-Year Average
84%	86%	92%	92%	91%	82%	89%	95%

Approved by:

Jason Epp

A/President and CEO, Yukon Energy

March 21, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2025

Energy Retrofits OCF Actions H1, H2, H30 and L4

Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: Energy Retrofits (OCF Action H1)

- The Department of Highways and Public Works is making significant progress toward reducing the energy use of our public buildings and meeting the greenhouse gas reduction commitments in Our Clean Future (H30).
- Highways and Public Works is investing in retrofits to government buildings to reduce energy use and contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Since the launch of Our Clean Future, 31 building energy retrofits have been completed using the Small Communities Fund. These projects are estimated to reduce 225 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.
- The Yukon University's roof is being replaced and is anticipated to be completed in 2026. This project is estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 137 tonnes per year.
- Our latest energy assessments will identify further retrofit priorities. Assessment results are currently being analyzed using the prioritization methodology.

Additional response:

- Potential projects include high efficiency boiler and furnace upgrades at various sites including Porter Creek Secondary, Swift River Grader Station, JV Clark School, and Tantalus School.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Energy retrofits and assessments are action items under Our Clean Future.

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2025

Energy Retrofits

Highways and

OCF Actions H1, H2, H30 and L4

Public Works

Background:

- Completed retrofits include HVAC, lighting and envelope upgrades. The retrofits aim to improve equipment efficiency and reduce the amount of energy required to heat the buildings.

Approved by:

T. Allen

February 3, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2025

Energy Assessments OCF Action H2

Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: Energy Assessments (OCF Action H2)

- The Department of Highways and Public Works is making significant progress toward reducing the energy use of our public buildings and meeting the greenhouse gas reduction commitments in Our Clean Future (H30).
- The department has completed energy assessments of all high-emitting Government of Yukon buildings to identify energy retrofits that reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from buildings (OCF Action H2).
- To date, we have assessed 112 high-emitting Government of Yukon buildings. These assessments identified a large number of possible building energy retrofit projects.
- The results of the latest energy assessments are being analyzed using a prioritization methodology that looks at greenhouse gas emissions, the business case, and operational improvements (OCF Action L4).

Additional response:

- In February 2024, the department awarded a project to conduct energy assessments on the 36 remaining buildings that are currently classified as high-emitting government buildings.
- The site visits for these energy assessments were completed in July 2024, and the final reports were completed in December 2024.
- These assessments identified a large number of potential energy retrofits, which will be evaluated and prioritized.

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2025

Energy Assessments OCF Action H2

Highways and
Public Works

- Highways and Public Works is also partnering with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to improve energy use data collection in Old Crow.
- In 2023, fuel and electricity meters were installed in all 11 Government of Yukon buildings in Old Crow. Data collection will conclude in October 2025. Further energy assessments may be conducted for those buildings depending on emission results.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Energy assessments are action items under Our Clean Future.

Background:

- A building energy assessment identifies retrofits to reduce energy costs and lower greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing overall building energy efficiency.
- Energy assessments create retrofit recommendations that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy costs.
- Retrofits are scored and prioritized based on magnitude of greenhouse gas reductions, business case analysis and operational and reliability improvements. Retrofits that score highest are recommended for implementation.

Approved by:

T. Allen

January 27, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Affordable Heat Pump Program

#43
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response (If asked about the Heat Pump Program):

- We are excited to announce that we have secured additional funding from the Government of Canada for our Affordable Heat Pump Program and have re-opened applications for this program. The new combined funding for the program is \$8.6 million, up from \$2.3 million.
- We will be first processing applications that had been on our waitlist. As of March 2025, 84 households have been pre-approved to receive funding for their heat pump installations.
- As of January 2025, 219 smart electric heating systems have been installed in the Yukon.

Additional Response (If asked about the Low Carbon Economy Fund):

- The Low Carbon Economy Fund supports the Government of Yukon's suite of residential and commercial retrofit programs including insulation upgrades, air sealing, and biomass heating among other initiatives.
- We have signed a new four-year agreement with Canada totaling over \$16 million under the Low Carbon Economy Fund to continue these initiatives.
- The original Low Carbon Economy Fund Agreement ended April 1, 2024.

Session Briefing Note

Affordable Heat Pump Program

#43
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about Energy, Mines and Resources' budget line that refers to the Low Carbon Economy Fund specifically and if the Yukon has a signed agreement.
- There may be questions about progress towards achieving actions under Our Clean Future:
 - Action H33 to “create a funding program by 2025 for low-income Yukoners to switch from fossil fuels to smart electric heating systems;”
 - Install 1,300 smart electric heating systems by 2030.

Background:

Affordable Heat Pump Program

- The Government of Yukon's Affordable Heat Pump Program seeks to reduce costs for low to middle-income households to install heat pumps, reduce emissions and reduce energy costs. Eligible households can receive up to \$24,000 for the installation of a heat pump.
- Funding comes from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- [As of March 2025](#), 84 households have been pre-approved to receive funding for their heat pump installations.
- [During the pause](#), all new applications [had](#) been placed on a waitlist. This waitlist prioritizes applications based on the order in which they were submitted, ensuring fairness and transparency.
- Criteria for Yukoners to be eligible for the new heat pump rebate includes, but not limited to:
 - Home must be connected to the Yukon's Integrated System.
 - Household income must be not more than the 2020 Yukon median after-tax income by household size, plus 15 per cent.

Session Briefing Note

Affordable Heat Pump Program

#43
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The home must be at least six months old, owned by the applicant, and be their primary residence .
- [A joint announcement with our federal partners stating additional funding had been secured and the program will be re-opening, occurred on March 13, 2025.](#)

Other rebates for heat pumps in the Yukon

- Currently, Yukoners can access the Affordable Heat Pump program ([up to \\$24,000 for income-tested households](#)), the Better Buildings Program for upfront financing and our Good Energy rebates to help with the costs of installing an electric heat pump (up to \$8,000 per household).

Approved by:

____Paul Moore_____
Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

__March 17, 2025_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Renewable Fuels

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to expanding the use of renewable fuels in the territory to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.
- We are currently developing a territorial approach to support the growing renewable fuel economy.
- We are also working with industry and government partners to establish a set of renewable fuel pilot projects this year.

Additional response:

- We are working on identifying potential supply chains for renewable fuel in the Yukon.
- We will be engaging with industry to develop an approach that is appropriate and effective in the Yukon context.
- We anticipate a strong demand for renewable fuels, especially renewable diesel, throughout the territory over the foreseeable future.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Using renewable fuels is a large part of the Our Clean Future: Climate Change Strategy and emission reductions commitments.

Background:

- There are several Our Clean Future actions with a 2025 deadline related to renewable fuels: ([See BN #38](#))

Session Briefing Note

Renewable Fuels

Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and Resources

- T9. Require all diesel fuel sold in the Yukon for transportation to align with the percentage of biodiesel and renewable diesel by volume in leading Canadian jurisdictions beginning in 2025, aiming for around 20 per cent.
- T10. Require all gasoline sold in the Yukon for transportation to align with the percentage of ethanol by volume in leading Canadian jurisdictions beginning in 2025, aiming for around 10 per cent.
- T31. Initiate a set of pilot projects by 2025 to test the use of renewable fuels for transportation, electricity generation, and heating in private and Government of Yukon assets.
- E2. Require some of the diesel used to generate electricity on the Yukon Integrated System and in off-grid communities to be substituted with clean diesel alternatives like biodiesel and renewable diesel beginning in 2025, aiming for around 20 per cent.
- Renewable fuels are made from organic materials such as plant matter and animal fats and are designed to be functionally identical to their fossil fuel counterparts.
- Renewable fuels can be blended with fossil fuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are compatible with most existing equipment.
- The department of Highways and Public Works and department of Energy, Mines and Resources are working to identify potential supply chains of renewable fuel in the Yukon.
- Energy, Mines and Resources has received a project proposal from ATCO Electric Yukon for a renewable fuels test in Watson Lake and are exploring additional piloting opportunities with Yukon Energy Corporation.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is finalizing a partnership with the Department of Highways and Public Works Facilities Management to test renewable fuel for heating and back-up electricity generation. If the tests are successful they will allow the Government of Yukon to further explore the use of renewable fuel as a replacement for traditional fuels in government and non-governmental buildings.

Session Briefing Note

Renewable Fuels

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

We plan to proceed with testing this innovative diesel alternative in the Yukon context in 2025.

Approved by:**Paul Moore****February 25, 2025**

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2025

Biomass and Solar Renewable Energy Projects

Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: Renewable Energy

- As part of our commitment to clean energy under *Our Clean Future* (Action H17), the Yukon government continues to invest in renewable energy projects, including installing renewable heating systems in government buildings.
- Highways and Public Works is nearing completion of the expansion of Whitehorse Correctional Centre's district biomass system, and the completion of two solar and battery systems in off-grid highway maintenance camps on the Dempster Highway.
- These projects together will offset a total of 545 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually, with 275 tonnes for the biomass project and 270 tonnes for the solar projects.
- Highways and Public Works is moving ahead with projects based on the completed renewable energy feasibility studies.
- We have completed 12 renewable energy feasibility studies to evaluate biomass, geothermal and other renewable heating options such as geo-exchange and waste heat exchange for 66 buildings across the territory.
- These studies have identified numerous renewable energy projects that could be constructed over the next several years. As well as a potential expansion to the existing Dawson City district heating biomass system.

Additional response: Biomass

- Biomass systems use renewable fuels to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and lower overall emissions.

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2025

Biomass and Solar Renewable Energy Projects

Highways and
Public Works

- The Elijah Smith Elementary School and Khà̀tìnas.à̀xh [Kaw Keen Ahh Saw] Community School biomass systems have been operational since October 2023 and are anticipated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 259 tonnes per year.
- We have expanded the biomass system at Whitehorse Correctional Centre to connect two other buildings. This project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 275 tonnes per year.

Additional response: Solar

- One of the commitments of *Our Clean Future* (Action E4) is to install renewable energy systems in off-grid government buildings to reduce reliance on diesel-generated electricity.
- Solar energy systems use the sun's energy to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and lower overall emissions. The inclusion of battery storage allows the system to optimize the reduction in generator use and prolong the availability of the energy captured by the solar panels.
- The Klondike and Ogilvie battery and solar power sites reached substantial completion in November 2024, with total completion anticipated in the coming months.
- These two projects will offset approximately 103,000 litres of diesel fuel each year and reduce emissions by 270 tonnes.
- We are also moving forward with solar energy projects at the Tuchitua and Blanchard highway maintenance camps. Construction activities started in the fall 2024 with substantial completion planned by fall 2025.
- These projects will offset approximately 98,000 liters of fuel and reduce emissions by 260 tonnes per year.

Session Briefing Note**Biomass and Solar Renewable
Energy Projects**Highways and
Public Works

- These four sites represent the most suitable off-grid locations for battery and solar power systems and with the greatest impact for this action.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Renewable energy systems are an important way for the Yukon government to reduce emissions from its buildings. They are also an OCF commitment.
-

Background:**Biomass:**

- All new biomass systems are designed to use either local wood chips or imported wood pellets. This provides flexibility to ensure that operations are both reliable and sustainable.
- Local sustainably harvested wood chips are the lowest carbon option for biomass heating in the Yukon.
- In 2024, wood pellets were sourced from waste wood or from a byproduct of lumber mills that is diverted from landfills.

Biomass – Elijah Smith Elementary School

- In July 2021, we engaged with biomass contractors to discuss our plans for the Elijah Smith School biomass project and to listen to their suggestions and feedback.
- Construction of the Elijah Smith biomass system was completed by Budget Plumbing and Heating for \$2.5 million.
- The Build Operate Maintain procurement has secured the contractor to provide operation and maintenance of the system from 2023 to 2026 - and incentivized the contractor to maximize the operational efficiency of the system throughout its construction and operation.

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2025

Biomass and Solar Renewable Energy Projects

Highways and Public Works

Biomass – Whitehorse Correctional Centre

- In December 2022, a contract was awarded for the Whitehorse Correctional Center biomass expansion project.
- The project connected underground piping from Takhini Haven and the Young Offenders Facility to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre that had an operational biomass boiler with available excess capacity.
- The system currently uses low-carbon wood pellets made from the waste of a sawmill in Northern Alberta.
- The system is fully constructed and provides heat to the District Energy System. Final commissioning and substantial completion are anticipated in April 2025.

Solar

- The four sites, Ogilvie, Klondike, Blanchard and Tuchtua, are not connected to the Yukon power grid or local community grids. Without these projects, all power would be provided by onsite diesel generators at each location.
- The solar energy projects were initially identified during a solar feasibility study completed in 2021.
- The systems are designed to reduce the run time of the onsite generators. This results in reduced fuel consumption, fuel costs and greenhouse gas emissions.
- The solar projects involve installing photovoltaic solar panel arrays, battery energy storage systems, generators and associated controls and system integration work.

Approved by:

T. Allen

April 4, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note Compliance Summary 2025

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended Response:

- Natural Resource Officers conduct inspections and enforce legislation regulating natural resource development pertaining to mining, forestry, land use, water and environmental protection.
- Officers ensure compliance through a progressive range of enforcement responses that range from education to warnings, fines, orders, directions and formal charges.
- From January 1, 2024, until December 31, 2024, Natural Resource Officers completed 695 inspections related to mineral resources, waters, forests and public lands.

Additional response:

- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch includes the Major Mines Unit, which is dedicated to managing compliance at quartz mines across the territory.
- Natural Resource Officers inspect more regularly when a site is found to have issues. For example, our officers have been on site every week at the Eagle Gold Mine since the heap leach failure (See BN #1).
- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch is also responsible for water quality monitoring of placer watersheds and water sample analysis for compliance monitoring.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is an interest in how the Government of Yukon manages and enforces compliance associated with natural resource development activities affecting lands and waters in the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note Compliance Summary 2025

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Yukoners, and specifically Yukon First Nations, have increasingly expressed interest in compliance and enforcement activities related to resource development in the Yukon.

Background:

- The Compliance Monitoring and Inspections Branch is staffed by 28 Natural Resource Officers, located across district offices in Dawson City, Haines Junction, Watson Lake, Mayo, Carmacks, Ross River, Teslin and Whitehorse.
- The Major Mines Unit consists of three officers responsible for compliance monitoring and enforcement at major quartz mining and associated exploration sites across the territory.
- The water quality monitoring team is based in Whitehorse and travels around the territory for monitoring.
- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch also assists with emergency response for major events as required throughout the territory.

Compliance and Enforcement:

- Natural Resource Officers are responsible for inspecting operations to ensure compliance with applicable legislative or regulatory requirements and terms and conditions of an authorization or licence.
- Natural Resource Officers investigate and may undertake enforcement actions when compliance issues are identified.
- Enforcement actions may consist of a warning, summary convictions ticket, a direction or order, and/or court proceedings.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

February 26, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

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 HPW/ 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; and• three 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 Faro• 21 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
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)

TAB #26
Spring 2025
Finance

Approved by:	
Jessica Schultz	April 15, 2025
_____ Deputy Minister, Finance	_____ Date Approved

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

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

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

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

Additional response:

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

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

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

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Implementation

Spring 2025
Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Third response:

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

ENV #20 / EMR #54

Spring 2025

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

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

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

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

February 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Environment

Date approved

Paul Moore

February 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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

Recommended response:

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

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

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

Additional response:

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

Session Briefing Note

2024-25 Supplementary Overview (Corporate Note)

Embargoed until tabled

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

February 24, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved

**Truth and Reconciliation Commission
– Update on Calls to Action**

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Prepared for Premier Ranj Pillai
Executive Council Office

Date prepared: January 25, 2025
Last Updated: March 5, 2025
Page 1 of 2

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**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

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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.

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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.

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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*.

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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.

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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**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

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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.

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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 – 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.

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

Session Briefing Note

EMR Accomplishments

Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and Resources

Energy and Climate Change:

- On November 21, 2024, we amended the *Clean Energy Act* to establish the territory's first emissions reduction target for the mining sector.
- Our Affordable Heat Pump Program was fully subscribed in under three weeks from its launch on December 19, 2024, with 84 households receiving heat pumps through the program. We are seeking additional federal funding to allow for more participants.
- We have given rebates for over 500 energy-efficient new homes since 2020, surpassing our target five years ahead of schedule.
- As of January 1, 2025, 317 high-performance retrofits to residential, commercial and institutional buildings have been completed across the territory. We have issued 219 rebates for residential and commercial smart electric heating systems and 543 rebates for highly energy-efficient new homes.
- We continue to support electrification of transportation. We installed two remote community chargers: one fast charger at the Canol Road junction, and a level 2 charger at Swift River. As of January 1, 2025, there were 597 zero emission vehicles registered in the territory.
- From 2021 to present we have issued rebates for over 1,500 electric bicycles.

Mineral Resources and Geoscience Services:

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Since the Eagle Gold heap leach failure on June 24, 2024, we have been working tirelessly to ensure on-site safety and to protect the health and wellbeing of Yukoners and the environment.
- In June, we were on site immediately and coordinating with our partners to address the emergency situation. In August, once it was apparent that Victoria Gold Corporation was unwilling or unable to take the necessary actions to protect the environment, we appointed a Receiver to undertake urgent works on site. In December, we worked with the Receiver to establish an Independent Review Board to investigate the failure so that we can understand what happened and take steps to prevent it from happening again.
- Through our Yukon Mineral Exploration Program, we provided \$1.4M to 43 early-stage exploration projects in 2024. These projects anticipate spending over \$4.1M during 2024 in the Yukon.
- We are supporting investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, including \$35 million into Fireweed Metal's Mactung Mine, to secure key mineral supply for the green economy and national defense.
- We continue to identify and monitor geohazards in and around our communities and along highway corridors: this past spring we released base geohazards maps for Haines Junction and Beaver Creek. We are developing a geohazards database for all the Yukon.
- Following eight years of targeted geothermal studies, we have recently released a compendium of all geothermal data for the Yukon to increase opportunities for harnessing this renewable energy source.

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Spring 2025

EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- We are making excellent progress on the Minto Mine Reclamation and Closure Plan. We are using funds held in security to do this work.
- We have initiated a multi-year asset removal program at Wolverine Mine.
- We are finalizing agreements that will transition control of the Ketzá River and Clinton Creek mines from the Government of Yukon to the Government of Canada.

Geothermal and Petroleum Resources:

- We work with our partners to manage and address opportunities and impacts of resource development in the Yukon's north through the North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding and the Western Arctic Offshore (Tariuq) Oil and Gas Accord.
- In 2024, we hosted representatives from Canada, the Northwest Territories, and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to identify scientific and socio-economic studies for the Beaufort Sea region as a part of a commitments to understand the impacts of oil and gas development.

Forest Management:

- We have made significant strides to ensure that Yukoners have a sustainable wood supply now and into the future.
- In 2024, seven timber harvesting projects were submitted to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board.

Session Briefing Note

EMR Accomplishments

Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and Resources

- In partnership with Liard First Nation, we approved the Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan. Licences have been issued for 17,000 cubic metres of timber and harvesting is underway.
- We approved the Marsh Lake Timber Harvest Plan for the harvest of 18,000 cubic metres of timber.
- We approved a new timber harvesting project in Teslin, which was developed in partnership with Teslin Tlingit Council.
- In Quill Creek near Haines Junction, we permitted 35,000 cubic metres of timber to dozens of operators and built new access.
- Between 2022 and 2024, we distributed more than half a million dollars through the Timber Harvest Incentive program to support timber harvesters and increase fuel wood supply.
- In 2023 and 2024, we partnered with the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency to provide over \$210,000 to businesses through the Yukon Forestry Support Program.
- We completed an enhanced forest inventory for the Poison Lake area near Watson Lake. This information will support the development of a new timber harvest plan in that district.
- We amended the *Forest Resources Act* to make the legislation more effective, provide greater clarity for all parties and continue to allow for sustainable use of the Yukon's forest resources.
- We have reconvened the Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan working group.

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EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
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- We have advanced the development of sites for log processing and storage. These areas will help to support the supply chain for fuel wood and other timber products.
- We launched a new online application system for personal use of fuel wood and commercial morel mushroom permits. The new system is easy to use and accessible for users across the territory.
- We established 13 National Forest Inventory plots in partnership with the Canadian Forest Service. We also measured and sampled 50 plots in collaboration with the federal government to update the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System. These programs are part of Our Clean Future commitments.
- We acquired aerial photography of the Dawson region which will enable updates to existing vegetation inventories. This data will benefit forest management, land use planning, and other sectors.

Land Planning:

- The Government of Yukon submitted proposed modifications to the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan on November 25, 2024.
- We are working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding for regional land use planning process in the Nacho Nyak Dun area.
- We are ready to initiate regional land use planning processes with Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Teslin Tlingit Council, Kluane First

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Nation, and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations when our First Nation partners are ready.

- We continue to collaborate with First Nation partners to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan and the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan.
- We are working with Kwanlin Dun First Nation and an appointed Steering Committee to complete a Local Area Plan for the Łu Zil Män

(Fish Lake) area, reflecting the vision for conservation established through public engagement in 2022.

Land Management:

- Over the 2024 season, we released land across the Yukon. We released lots in Whistle Bend, Grizzly Valley, Mendenhall, Golden Horn, Haines Junction, Watson Lake, Mayo, Teslin, Carmacks and Faro.
- We sold lot 1096 to the Northern Community Land Trust Society for them to create over 30 affordable home ownership units.
- We sold the 5th and Rogers (Kèjān and Rogers) property to West End Developments.
- We signed an Agreement for Sale with PCR Construction for them to develop the Macaulay Lodge property.

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EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The new *Resource Roads Regulation* came into effect on January 27 and allows us to regulate these roads through their construction, operation, closure and reclamation to limit environmental impacts and ensure health and safety of road users.
- We transferred administration and control for parcel C16B in Beaver Creek to the Government of Canada as a way providing opportunity for White River First Nation to address housing needs.
- We made progress in meeting our Land Lottery Reform commitment in CASA 2023. Public engagement wrapped up in August and we have implemented modifications to the land lottery.

Agriculture:

- To date, through the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership, we have funded over 140 projects with more than \$2.2M dollars since April 2023 to support agriculture and agri-food projects. These projects support sector capacity, growth, climate change actions, resiliency and public trust.
- In Spring 2024, the *Animal Protection and Control Act and Regulations* were approved and are now in effect, providing stronger and clearer standards of care and control for livestock.
- The Yukon co-chaired and hosted the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture this past year. It ended with successfully hosting the Annual Conference of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture Conference in Whitehorse in July. This included hosting members of

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EMR Accomplishments

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the Canadian Federation of Agriculture at the annual board meeting that saw 120+ agriculture industry delegates visit the Yukon.

- We successfully concluded a pilot program with Highways and Public Works with a group of local farmers in an online Marketplace and continue to look for way to increase our purchase of locally produced food.

Strategic Alliances:

- In August, we concluded a public engagement period about new public lands legislation. We visited 14 communities and had over 200 attendees throughout the Yukon. We have also met with and received letters from numerous stakeholder groups.
- Consultation with First Nations and Indigenous governments is continuing. This legislation is being developed by the Government of Yukon, working closely with Yukon First Nation governments, transboundary Indigenous governments, and the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- Together with Yukon First Nation governments, transboundary Indigenous governments, and the Council of Yukon First Nations, we continue to work toward an agreed legislative framework for new minerals legislation.
- A What We Heard report was released on August 27, 2024, that summarizes the feedback we received from the public on options for new minerals legislation, during a public engagement period in the spring of 2023.

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Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections:

- Our major mines team has been diligently supporting the collective response to the Victoria Gold Corp. Eagle Mine Heap Leach failure, supported by additional resources re-assigned from within the branch.
- A new organizational structure was successfully implemented to improve operational effectiveness while ensuring consistency and accountability in delivering Branch programs.
- From January 1, 2024, until December 31, 2024, Natural Resource Officers completed 695 inspections related to mineral resources, waters, forests and public lands.
- Through the Collaborative Stewardship Initiative, we continue to enhance water quality monitoring with our First Nation partners, including Selkirk First Nation, and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. We are also collaborating on joint inspections with many First Nations, and additional water quality monitoring with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

February 24, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

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Staffing Information

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Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources provides a wide variety of services to the public, from agricultural leases to energy rebates to natural resource compliance checks.
- Our nine community offices support Yukoners across the territory by offering department services on site. Throughout, we emphasize service, respect, leadership and safety.

Additional response:

- For the 2024-25 fiscal year, we are budgeted for 294.7 full-time equivalent positions. Staffing levels remain relatively consistent throughout the year, although they increase in summer due to student programs. Through these programs, students gain new experiences as they train for future careers within the public service.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank department staff who continue to do great work every day across the Yukon.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- People may be interested in the number and make-up of the department's employee base.

Background:

- Energy, Mines and Resources is budgeted for 294.7 full-time equivalent positions in the 2024-25 fiscal year. This full-time equivalent number does not directly correspond to each position. For example, in the case of student or seasonal positions, one full-time equivalent position could support the hiring of multiple students in a summer program.

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- There has also been a slight increase in overall FTE's, with one permanent position in the Energy Branch supporting Our Clean Future.
- The department has 38 positions between the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections branch and the Mineral Resources branch who work in the district offices in communities outside of Whitehorse.
- As of April 14, 2025 the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has 267 active employees, including 219 permanent employees, 19 employees in term or temporary assignment positions, 10 casuals, two interns/students and 17 auxiliary on-calls. Shifts in the department's staffing levels occur seasonally.
- The department currently has 18 employees with approved remote work agreements in place.

Approved by:

Heather Mills

April 29, 2025

Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Biomass

#66
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is taking action to reduce the Yukon's dependence on imported fossil fuels.
- We are supporting initiatives to maximize the use of locally harvested wood to meet our heating needs and grow our biomass industry.
- We are working to identify biomass opportunities and projects that align with our climate goals.

Additional response:

- Commercial timber harvesting activities, fuel abatement projects and other land clearings create opportunities for harvested materials to supply the Yukon's biomass industry.
- We are working with First Nations and industry to identify a sustainable, long-term timber supply to fulfill a variety of needs, including biomass business development.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The public may be interested in the growth of the Yukon's biomass energy industry including the use of waste products.
- There is industry interest in developing biomass at a scale that provides sufficient investment opportunities.

Background:

- Biomass involves burning wood chips, pellets or fuel wood in a boiler system to generate heat. Biomass systems can use wood by-products from timber harvesting and land-clearing activities that would otherwise be wasted.

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- Land clearing activities that may contribute to the availability of biomass include lot developments, highway right-of-way maintenance, and wildfire fuel abatement.
- The Government of Yukon is continuing to explore opportunities to grow the biomass industry to support the Yukon's climate change goals.
- Dawson City and the Village of Teslin currently use biomass boiler systems to provide heat to several buildings.
- In summer 2023 Elijah Smith Elementary School in Whitehorse installed a biomass heating system.

Approved by:

Heather Mills

January 27, 2025

Acting Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Wood Supply and Planning

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are working with industry and First Nations to develop new timber harvesting projects and to support existing operations throughout the territory.
- The reported volume of Yukon commercial fuel wood harvest has increased from approximately 10,000 cubic metres in 2021 to approximately 20,026 cubic metres in 2024 – even higher than the 17,600 cubic metres for 2024 that I previously shared. The increase in is due to more reporting coming in for 2024.
- Since spring 2024, we have worked with First Nations, the Yukon Wood Products Association, and industry to submit nine timber harvesting projects to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board to support wood supply throughout the Yukon.
- Looking ahead, we anticipate significant timber harvesting opportunities to become available in and around Yukon communities as we advance our work on community protection from wildfires.

Additional response:

- In the Southeast Yukon / Watson Lake area, the Government of Yukon and Liard First Nation approved the Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan that allows for up to 17,100 cubic metres of timber harvesting.
- In the Southern Lakes area, a new Marsh Lake timber harvest plan was approved and a decision document has been issued for the Lubbock project.

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Wood Supply and Planning

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- In Whitehorse, the Copper Haul Road Fuel Abatement Timber Harvest Plan is moving through the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board process. There is strong public interest in this project, and YESAB extended the public input period to April 30.
- In the Teslin area, we are preparing for operations for a new timber harvesting project. This is a joint project between the Government of Yukon and the Teslin Tlingit Council to harvest 17,348 cubic metres of timber.
- In the Haines Junction area, we permitted 35,000 cubic metres of timber to dozens of operators under the Quill Creek Timber Harvest Plan.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Although the fuel wood availability in the territory has significantly improved, a shortage of building-grade sawlogs persists as the sawlog dimensions required for manufacturing log homes and buildings are rare in the Yukon.
- Whitehorse log home builders have been impacted by the prioritization of timber from Scoby Creek to Heartland Homes, a company owned by First Kaska. These builders are not satisfied with the quality of saw logs from other districts and prefer the fire killed logs from Watson Lake.

Background:

- The Yukon has four forest resource management plans and dozens of timber harvest plans which establish the framework for where and how timber can be harvested.
- Over the coming years, it is anticipated that fuel abatement projects throughout the territory will increase the amount of firewood and saw logs on the market.

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: March 3, 2025
Last Updated: April 29, 2025

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Haines Junction

- We are working with industry, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) and the Alsek Renewable Resources Council (ARRC) on existing harvest operations (Quill Creek). We are working with the Yukon Wood Products Association to plan new areas (Bear Creek II and MacIntosh East).
- Bear Creek Logging submitted a new timber harvest plan to YESAB for the Bear Creek area, approximately 20 kilometres north of Haines Junction. This project is a collaboration between industry, Yukon Wood Products Association, and the Forest Management Branch.
- We submitted a new timber harvesting project in Silver City to YESAB, to harvest 15,000 cubic metres of timber over 257 hectares.
- In Quill Creek, we have constructed access and [have completed harvesting](#) on a fuel abatement block. We also built access to make new harvest blocks available for permitting and planning for additional access is underway.

Southeast Yukon (Watson Lake)

- The Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan has been approved by the Government of Yukon and Liard First Nation. Licences have been issued [to Bill's Woodcutting and First Kaska](#) for 17,000 cubic metres of sawlogs and fuel wood.
- It is priority for Liard First Nation that larger diameter sawlogs harvested in the Scoby Creek area are directed to Heartland Timber Homes.
- Because all the sawlogs are going to Heartland Homes, other Yukon companies outside of Watson Lake have been impacted. This includes Whitehorse-based Eldorado Logbuilders Inc. and Carpenters Construction. [These companies have](#) concerns about the quality of sawlogs they have purchased from other districts.
- Harvesting has been completed [on the existing permits](#). There were approximately 250 to 300 cubic metres of sawlogs harvested, and all this wood is required by Heartland Homes.

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: March 3, 2025
Last Updated: April 29, 2025

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- It is an option [for the Whitehorse](#) log home building companies to apply for licences and permits to harvest saw logs.
- It also may be an option to direct some of the wood that was seized in 2024 in the Lubbock area to the log home builders. Discussions with Carcross/Tagish First Nation are required.
- Planning is underway with the Yukon Wood Products Association and Liard First Nation to advance a timber harvest plan in the Poison Lake burn and a new project in the Scoby Creek area.
- Although there is an abundance of large saw logs in the Poison Lake area, it will require significant road building to access the resource.
- In a July 5 letter, the Minister committed to developing a government-to-government forestry agreement with Liard First Nation.

Whitehorse and Southern Lakes

- In summer 2024, we reconvened the Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan Working Group (Government of Yukon, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Carcross/Tagish First Nation). The working group is meeting regularly.
- There are four new wood supply projects in the Southern Lakes area.
- The Teslin North project with Teslin Tlingit Council is active and road access will be constructed in the summer of 2025.
- The Marsh Lake project for the harvest of 18,000 cubic metres of sawlogs and fuel wood is approved. A heritage resources impact assessment is required before harvesting can begin.
- A decision document was issued for the Lubbock Valley project for the harvest of up to 14,963 cubic metres of sawlogs and fuel wood and FMB is working on finalizing the timber harvest plan.

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- The Copper Haul Road project is undergoing YESAB assessment for the harvest of 13,750 cubic metres of sawlogs and fuel wood.
 - This timber harvest plan is designed to reduce wildfire risk by reducing fuel on the landscape, mimicking the natural fire cycle of the boreal forest, and creating safe access routes for firefighters in the event of a wildfire. The plan will also support local wood supply near Whitehorse as the area will be permitted for commercial operations.
 - Operators will be required to remove all logging debris during harvesting. The Forest Management Branch will oversee stand conversion to promote aspen regrowth and will replant as needed once harvesting is complete.
 - We have made several adjustments to the project based on community feedback. Public meetings were held on February 3 and April 24. To support community engagement, the YESAB public comment period was extended until April 30. After the comment period closes, YESAB will review the input they received and make a recommendation on the project.
 - Following YESAB's recommendation, FMB will consult with affected First Nations on the draft decision document and issue a decision on the project.
- In 2024, there were ten companies under contract to harvest in the Whitehorse South Fuel Break and multiple FireSmart projects. (See BN #66)

Northern and Central Yukon

- We are working with Arctic Inland and the Yukon Wood Products Association on a project for harvesting up to 17,547 cubic metres of sawlogs and fuel wood along the Dempster Highway. This project is being reviewed by YESAB.
- The Partridge Creek West project is being reviewed by YESAB, for the harvest of up to 18,530 cubic metres of sawlogs and fuel wood.
- Timber harvest planning includes:
 - The Crooked Creek burn near Stewart Crossing for the harvest of up to 20,000 cubic metres of fuel wood.

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Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

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- A small 2022 burn near Pelly Crossing for the harvest of approximately 2,000 cubic metres of fuel wood.
- Commercial fuel wood harvesting opportunities are available in:
 - Dominion and French Gulch timber harvest plans near Dawson City.
 - Little Salmon River Burn near Carmacks with 12,000 cubic metres of fuel wood available. There are several operators working in this area and 6,000 cubic metres are permitted for harvesting.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

May 1, 2025

Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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Forestry Sector Status and Supports

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Spring 2025
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Recommended response:

- We are improving the conditions for our forest sector through a variety of initiatives.
- We are securing sites for log processing and storage that will help to support the supply chain for fuel wood and other timber products.
- We are working towards developing three sites in and around the City of Whitehorse, including a location in the [Kookatsoon area](#), a location in the Ibex Valley and a location in McCrae.
- We carefully consider public feedback before we make decisions regarding new developments, and we are working closely with the Yukon Wood Products Association and with industry on these initiatives.

Additional response:

- Between 2022 and 2024, we distributed more than \$750,000 through funding programs to support the forest industry, including the Timber Harvest Incentive and the Yukon Forestry Support Program.
- The Timber Harvest Incentive Program provided \$552,541 to support 33 and 35 Yukon timber harvesters in 2023 and 2024 to increase harvested timber volumes. With it and other supports, we saw twelve new businesses enter the harvesting sector in 2022/23.
- The Forestry Support Program was a partnership with Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency that provided over \$210,000 to 51 timber harvester and fuel wood retail businesses to

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Forestry Sector Status and Supports

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upgrade tools and infrastructure and better help them operate safely and efficiently.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There have been concerns about access to and affordability of firewood in the Yukon.
- Community members in the Mount Lorne area have expressed concerns about the wood storage and processing site in the Kookatsoon area. First Nations and community members in the Ibex area have expressed concerns about the development of a wood storage and processing site.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon distributed \$315,000 in 2022-23 and \$237,541 in 2023-24 to dozens of Yukon businesses under the Timber Harvest Incentive program.
- The program provided registered Yukon businesses with \$10 for each cubic metre of timber harvested or sold between 2022 and 2024. This program was not extended due to fiscal constraints.
- In fall 2023, we partnered with the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency to provide over \$210,000 to 51 timber harvester and fuel wood retail businesses through the Yukon Forestry Support Program. This program will not be continued this year due to fiscal constraints and pressures.
- Log yards help businesses stockpile and maintain sufficient inventory of wood, reduce delivery time and fuel wood costs and provide a place to dry green timber.
- [The Forest Management Branch issued the decision document for the Kookatsoon log yard to proceed in July 2023 and issued the decision document for the Ibex Hub to proceed in January 2024.](#)
- In April 2024, a zoning amendment was approved for the Kookatsoon gravel pit to allow industrial activity. In response to community concerns, a decision was made to limit activities to fuel wood storage and processing.

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 27, 2025
Last Updated: April 30, 2025
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Supports

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- A development permit for a log yard in the McCrae area has been issued by the City of Whitehorse. The Lands Management Branch [is taking](#) steps to have an unauthorized user remove equipment from the site.
- A zoning amendment was approved for the Ibex site.
- The Forest Management Branch is considering how to best provide lease opportunities for the log yards for the sector.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

May 1, 2025

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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Spring 2025

Forest Resources Act and Regulations

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We have updated the *Forest Resources Act* to make the legislation more effective and to support sustainable use of the Yukon's forest resources.
- The changes to the *Forest Resources Act* simplify forest resource licensing, modernize permitting and enforcement, and support the growth of our forest industry.
- The Act amendments will come into force once the regulations are developed.

Additional response:

- We are developing the regulation amendments based on recommendations from the *Forest Resources Act* Review Working Group and feedback from public engagement.
- The *Forest Resources Act* Review Working Group consisted of representatives from the Government of Yukon, Teslin Tlingit Council, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Acho Dene Koe First Nation.
- In spring 2023, we consulted First Nations governments on the proposed *Forest Resources Act* and engaged with renewable resources councils, industry and Yukoners. A What We Heard report is available on Yukon.ca.

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Spring 2025

Forest Resources Act and Regulations

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Forest Resources Act review was initiated in 2017. Questions may arise regarding the Act amendments or the regulation development.

Background:

- The Forest Resources Act Review Working Group consisted of representatives from the Government of Yukon, Teslin Tlingit Council, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Acho Dene Koe First Nation.
- The Working Group provided early engagement opportunities in 2020 to Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups, renewable resources councils and stakeholders, including the Yukon Wood Products Association.
- The Working Group identified and discussed policy issues around planning, tenure and enforcement, which are the three pillars of the Act.
- The period for spring 2023 consultation and engagement, which was based on the working group's recommendations, was extended in response to requests from some First Nations governments and renewable resource councils.

Approved by:

Heather Mills

January 27, 2025

Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

**Exploration Spending / Yukon
Minerals Exploration Program**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- In 2024, we provided \$1.34 million to the mineral exploration sector through the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program.
- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program (YMEP) 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 2025, the Government of Yukon received 69 YMEP applications and accepted 67 of these applications: 27 placer, 12 grassroots projects, and 28 target evaluation projects.
- One individual had two applications rejected (1 placer, 1 grassroots) due to the entirety of the proposed work being off claim.
- [We aim to finalize the list of successful applicants by early May](#) to align the public release with the [annual Dawson Gold Show, which takes place](#) over the May long weekend.
- The total ask to YMEP in 2025 was \$2.4 million (**see details on last page**) and available YMEP funding was \$1.4 million.
- Similar to 2023 and 2024, the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program's 2025 evaluation criteria were designed to encourage exploration for critical minerals.

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**Exploration Spending / Yukon
Minerals Exploration Program**Energy, Mines and
Resources

- 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.

Additional response (if asked about 2025 changes):

- YMEP guidelines have always stated that recipients must be [compliant](#) with permitting requirements; however, the [previous](#) guidelines did not speak to the Government of Yukon's duty to consult.
- To address this gap regarding consultation obligations, the following [requirements were added](#) to the 2025 Program guidelines:
 - a copy of all relevant permits must be submitted to the Yukon Geological Survey before a funding agreement is signed. [The permits serve as proof that consultation has been undertaken.](#)
 - YMEP funds cannot be used for off-claim work or the staking of new claims because these activities do not require a permit and therefore do not undergo consultation.
- The old guidelines allowed off claim work and specified that up to 20% of the funds could be applied to staking of new claims. The 2025 YMEP guidelines [do not allow](#) these activities because they do not require a permit, and therefore there is no associated consultation in advance of the work. Yukon government is committed to consulting on exploration activities.

Session Briefing Note**Exploration Spending / Yukon
Minerals Exploration Program**Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Administrative adjustments are made each year to the program, as with all programs, and not every change is brought up to the Minister.
- YMEP Guidelines for the upcoming field season are posted each year in late January/early February, with applications due March 31. This year, the guidelines were posted in early February.

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 [Yukon](#) Chamber of Mines has expressed concern about not allowing work to be done off claims or allowing funds to be used for claim staking.

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.
- Each year, a number of YMEP recipients are unable to complete their exploration projects for various reasons: some projects are cancelled due to wildfires; some companies are not able to raise matching capital.
- For the 2024 exploration season, the program received 64 applications for funding (41 hard rock and 23 placer applications).
- [At the completion of the fiscal year, \\$1.34M of the available \\$1.4M was paid out on 46 applications \(15 placer, 31 hard rock\).](#)
- YMEP recipients spent a total of \$3.3M on their exploration projects in the 2024 field season.

Session Briefing Note**Exploration Spending / Yukon
Minerals Exploration Program**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Changes made in 2025

- Three changes were made in January 2025:
 - YMEP funds can only be applied to work on existing claims or placer leases;
 - YMEP funds may not be used to stake new claims; and
 - Successful applicants must provide a copy of their relevant permits/authorizations to the Yukon Geological Survey before their funding agreement will be signed.
- These changes were made to ensure that the Government of Yukon is fulfilling its duty to consult on the provision of funding under the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program.
- Upon review of the program guidelines, it was noted that compliance with permitting requirements is a condition of funding, and that consultation is part of the permitting process.
- Before January 2025, the program did allow proponents to apply funding to exploration off claims and to stake new claims. Neither of these activities require permits. While they are technically legal activities, they represent a gap in the Government of Yukon's consultation obligations for the Program because there is no associated permitting process that ensures consultation is undertaken.
- Guidelines outlining these changes were released in early February 2025; the changes are highlighted on the first page.
- The changes do not preclude off-claim exploration or claim staking by explorers; they simply do not allow YMEP funds to be used for these activities.

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.

Session Briefing Note

Exploration Spending / Yukon Minerals Exploration Program

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Energy, Mines and
Resources

- 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.
- 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 Nacho 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.

Details of accepted Yukon Mineral Exploration Projects in 2025 (67)

Type of Project	#	Funding	Total budget	YMEP ask
Placer	27	50% funding, up to \$40k	\$3.2M	\$0.9M
Grassroots	12	100% funding up to \$25k	\$0.33M	\$0.27M
Target evaluation	28	50% funding up to \$50k	\$3.3M	\$1.2M
TOTAL	67		\$6.9 M	\$2.4 M

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

April 30, 2025

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 17, 2025
Last Updated: April 29, 2025
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Session Briefing Note

Landslide Monitoring

Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon has seen a recent increase in the frequency of landslides due to high snowpack, permafrost melt, wildfire activity and heavy rains.
- The Government of Yukon is working with Yukon communities to mitigate landslide risks by investing in geohazard mapping and monitoring in and around communities and along highway corridors.
- The Yukon Geological Survey is on track to complete initial geohazard maps for all communities by the Our Clean Future 2025 deadline. A Yukon Permafrost Database is now publicly available online and is being updated as new monitoring wells are established.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon (Energy, Mines and Resources and Community Services) is actively monitoring the Moosehide and Sunnydale slides and working to develop an emergency response plan in case of a slide.
- We are monitoring landslides and thaw slumps along highways and our Geological Survey team is providing support to Highways and Public Works for mitigation planning.
- We are assessing landslide risks along highways where recent wildfires may have caused slope instability, particularly in areas with permafrost.

Context — this may be an issue because:

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Landslide Monitoring

Energy, Mines and
Resources

-
- Yukoners, particularly those in Whitehorse and Dawson City, may have concerns about the risk posed by landslides.
-

Background:

- In Dawson, the Moosehide Slide and the Sunnydale Slide represent potential hazards: in both cases, ground movement rates are cause for concern. Both slides are being observed with near real-time monitoring equipment to provide advance warning if ground movement accelerates. A third slide, north of the Moosehide, will have instruments installed for monitoring purposes this summer.
- The multiple landslides on the Dawson Region of the North Klondike Highway were triggered in 2022 by heavy rainfall on permafrost slopes. Some of these slopes are now being observed with monitoring equipment.
- In Whitehorse, elevated groundwater levels have caused several landslides along the downtown escarpment. The Government of Yukon has been assisting the City of Whitehorse in their response.
- The Takhini permafrost thaw slump along the Alaska Highway has increased in size since it first formed in 2014. Continued expansion of the thaw slump required re-routing of the highway in 2023.
- A second landslide along the Takhini River occurred on December 17, 2024 roughly four km southwest of Takhini Hot Springs. No residences or infrastructure were impacted. The impact wave from the slide pushed ice 250 metres onto the opposite bank, shearing trees and leaving large blocks of ice along shore. The riverway should clear naturally without additional intervention.
- In July 2024, a large debris flow closed the South Klondike Highway.
- Collectively, these events highlight the increasing need for geohazard mapping and monitoring per commitments in Our Clean Future. (See BN # 38)
- Energy, Mines and Resources are continuing to invest in LiDAR surveys as well as landslide and permafrost monitoring equipment to keep Yukoners safe.

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Resources

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

February 4, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Critical Minerals

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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).

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Critical Minerals

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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-

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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.

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- 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

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Chance Oil and Gas

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Chance Oil and Gas Ltd. holds 10 active oil and gas permits and licences for eight existing wells in the Eagle Plains area.
- Chance Oil and Gas Ltd. has obligations with respect to these permits and wells under the *Oil and Gas Act* which include reporting and compliance.
- We continue to meet with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun on oil and gas matters, including Chance Oil and Gas' obligations, through the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum.

Additional response:

- Chance Oil and Gas' permits do not authorize the company to carry out any oil and gas exploration or development activities.
- Any oil and gas activities must be licensed consistent with the Yukon's regulatory framework, which includes consultation with affected First Nations.
- As we have consistently and publicly stated, we will not approve hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas development in the Yukon.
- There are no active oil and gas operations or applications for hydraulic fracturing in the Yukon.

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Chance Oil and Gas

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Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions pertaining to Chance Oil and Gas' permits and wells.
- There may be questions on the Government of Yukon's position on hydraulic fracturing.

Background:**Compliance orders under the Oil and Gas Act**

- In 2021, the Government of Yukon issued two orders under the Oil and Gas Act for Chance Oil and Gas to abandon or put back into production its eight wells by May 31, 2023. Chance Oil and Gas did not comply with the orders by the deadline.
- New orders were issued under the Oil and Gas Act to Chance Oil and Gas on April 5, 2024. These orders have conditions of enhanced reporting requirements and require the company to abandon, partially abandon, or return to operation its eight wells by May 31, 2027.
- All of Chance Oil and Gas' eight wells are currently suspended.

Well maintenance and flow test program

- In compliance under the Oil and Gas Act, Chance is intending to perform well abandonment and flow-testing activities on their eight Eagle Plains wells.
- In July 2022, the Government of Yukon issued a decision to support Chance Oil and Gas' well abandonment and flow test work program based on a review under the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act.
- A benefits agreement between affected First Nations, the Government of Yukon, and Chance Oil and Gas was signed in December 2023 for their abandonment and flow test work program. A benefits agreement is required prior to issuing a licence for oil and gas activities.

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- Chance Oil and Gas has received a water licence for the proposed camp and has submitted applications for a land use permit. They were denied access to land an airplane on the Dempster Highway near their camp by the Department of Highways and Public Works.
- Chance Oil and Gas conducts annual inspections on their eight suspended wells.

Oil and gas permits in Eagle Plain Basin

- Chance Oil and Gas has ten oil and gas permits in Eagle Plain Basin, and three Significant Discovery Licences.
- All permits are set to expire in August 2026.
- The Significant Discovery Licences were granted prior to devolution of oil and gas resources to the Government of Yukon from Canada and have no expiration dates.

YESAB Executive Committee proposed exploration program

- Chance Oil and Gas has proposed a 30 well and seismic exploration program on their Eagle Plain permits.
- Northern First Nation governments have expressed opposition to Chance Oil and Gas' proposed exploration program.
- In August 2024, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board Executive Committee determined that the company's project proposal did not comply with requirements of section 50(3) of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* related to consultation with First Nations and communities.
- The company will now conduct additional consultation and submit a revised project proposal.
- The Government of Yukon discusses matters related to Chance Oil and Gas with First Nation governments through the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum Working Group. (See BN #127)

Chance Litigation

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: February 24, 2025

Last updated:

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- In 2017, Chance Oil and Gas sought legal action against the Government of Yukon regarding its moratorium on hydraulic fracturing. This matter is currently before the Supreme Court of Yukon.

Approved by:**Paul Moore****February 24, 2025**

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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Recommended response:

- Geothermal energy is a renewable energy resource with the potential to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.
- Yukon First Nations governments are interested in collaborating on the development of new geothermal resources legislation and participating in scientific research initiatives to understand the potential of this resource.
- The commitment in *Our Clean Future* is to develop legislation to regulate geothermal energy development by 2023.
- Between June and September 2022, we held a public engagement on geothermal resource legislation and released a What We Heard Report in February 2023.
- We are committed to developing legislation in collaboration with First Nation and transboundary Indigenous governments and advancing this legislation must align with the pace and capacity of our partners.

Additional response:

- Between 2020 and 2023, the Government of Yukon invested \$3.4 million to assess geothermal potential in the territory, with financial support from the Government of Canada.
- We have completed geothermal studies in collaboration with Liard First Nation, Kluane First Nation, Teslin Tlingit Council, and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and an assessment of the Whitehorse area is currently underway.

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- While geothermal research is underway, geothermal resource production is several years away for the Yukon.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be a request for an update on geothermal research and progress on the new geothermal legislation.

Background:

- Under Our Clean Future, the Government of Yukon committed to developing geothermal legislation by 2023 and to researching the potential to develop geothermal energy for heating and electricity by 2025. (See BN #37 and #38)
- As of winter 2025, work to develop geothermal legislation is in the preliminary research and policy development stage.
- First Nations have shared that pressure on their capacity impacts their involvement in the development of successor natural resource legislation and has subsequently extended the timeline for a geothermal regulatory framework.
- Aside from power generation, potential uses of geothermal energy include heating for greenhouses (food security), aquaculture, heating, municipal drinking water, de-icing runways, and food processing.
- Research on geothermal potential indicates the southwestern and south-central regions have higher potential than other regions of the territory.
- Studies have been published on the geothermal potential near the communities of Burwash Landing, Watson Lake, Teslin and Haines Junction, and research is underway to assess the potential around Whitehorse.

Canada's proposed GHG regulations on the Oil and Gas Sector

- Canada's 2024 announcement of draft regulations to cap greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas does not affect the oil and gas sector or the geothermal sector in the Yukon as there has been no oil and gas production in the territory since 2012.

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- The proposed regulations establish a greenhouse gas emissions cap-and-trade system for oil and gas and liquified natural gas production.
- Capping greenhouse gas pollution from the oil and gas sector is one of the key measures outlined in Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan.

Approved by:

Heather Mills

January 24, 2025

Acting Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Kotaneelee Gas Field

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Resources

Recommended response:

- Kotaneelee Well L-38 is an orphaned natural gas well in southeast Yukon that transferred to the Government of Yukon's in 2017.
- The Government of Yukon is responsible for inspecting the Kotaneelee Well L-38 well and its eventual abandonment process.
- We continue to inspect Well L-38 annually to ensure its safety, with the last inspection conducted in September 2024.
- To date, only minor maintenance on the well has been required.

Response for the current regulatory process in Northwest Territories:

- Access to Kotaneelee Well L-38 requires barging on the Liard River and the use of the Kotaneelee Road in the Northwest Territories.
- In January 2025, the Government of Yukon was granted a water licence and land use permit from the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.
- The previous permits for the barge landing did not belong to our government and had expired.
- The permits allow us to access the Kotaneelee region by barge and land.

Additional response:

- The Kotaneelee gas field plant has been decommissioned by its primary operator and the area will be reclaimed in the future.

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Kotaneelee Gas Field

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- The Pointed Mountain pipeline that previously transported natural gas from Kotaneelee to British Columbia will be decommissioned in winter 2025 –26.
- The pipeline is owned by Enbridge Inc. and the decommissioning process is regulated by the Canada Energy Regulator.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Government of Yukon receives periodic questions about Kotaneelee gas field.

Background:**Kotaneelee gas field and Kotaneelee Well L-38:**

- The Kotaneelee gas field is located in the Liard basin in southeast Yukon. Infrastructure includes a gas plant, pipelines and natural gas wells.
- The Kotaneelee gas field in southeast Yukon produced natural gas from 1991 until 2012.
- The Kotaneelee field no longer produces natural gas, and all facilities are no longer in operation.
- The L-38 well licensee (EFLO Energy Inc.) declared itself insolvent in 2015. In 2017, the Chief Operating Officer issued an order for the L-38 well to be abandoned at government expense.
- Well abandonment involves sealing the well at depth and removing equipment on site so that the site will naturally revegetate over time.
- The Government of Yukon holds \$625,000 in security money for the abandonment of L-38 well.

Current Regulatory Process in the Northwest Territories (Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board)

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Kotaneelee Gas Field

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- The Kotaneelee gas field is remote and requires either barge access through the Northwest Territories or a winter road from British Columbia.
- The Government of Yukon started the permit application process, which included First Nation and community engagement, in Fall 2024.
- In January 2025, the Government of Yukon acquired a seven-year water permit and a five-year land use permit.

The Kotaneelee Gas Plant

- The Kotaneelee field gas plant facility has been decommissioned. The remaining gas plant site facilities will be removed, and the area will be reclaimed in the future.
- Paramount Resources is the majority owner of the gas plant and primary contact for regulatory matters.
- We hold \$7,468,483 in security for the remediation of the gas plant.

The Pointed Mountain Pipeline:

- The Pointed Mountain Pipeline was the Kotaneelee gas transmission line to British Columbia. It ceased operation in 2012 when the Kotaneelee gas field ended production.
- In 2022, Enbridge Inc., the current owner of the Pointed Mountain Pipeline, received the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's recommendation to proceed with abandoning the pipeline.
- In 2023, the Government of Yukon issued a decision document authorizing Enbridge to proceed with abandoning the pipeline.
- In December 2023, Enbridge Inc. submitted a proposal to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board expanding the scope of their 2022 submission to include an additional winter road, use of an additional water source, and ice bridge construction.

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- In July 2024, the Government of Yukon issued a joint decision document with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada authorizing Enbridge Inc. to proceed with the additional scope to abandon the pipeline.
- In December 2024, the Canada Energy Regulator authorized the decommissioning of the pipeline. Enbridge Inc. is expected to conduct this work in winter 2025-2026.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

February 24, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Beaufort and ANWR

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Recommended response (if asked about resources in the Arctic Offshore):

- Our government supports the protection of the Arctic's ecosystem as well as a strong, sustainable, and viable Arctic economy.
- To achieve these goals, we work together with our partners - the Governments of Canada, Northwest Territories and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation - under the Western Arctic-Tariq (Offshore) Accord which we ratified in 2023.
- Legislation to implement the Accord is being developed by the Government of Canada with input from all signatory parties.
- Under the Accord, the Government of Yukon is an equal partner with a strong role in the management of resource development and environmental protection in our northern coastal waters.
- In response to recent changes in United States' executive policy towards Arctic energy, we are working with our partners to present a united, coordinated, and collaborative response.

Recommended response (if asked about Arctic National Wildlife Refuge):

- The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is an essential calving ground for the Porcupine Caribou herd.
- The Yukon continues to review and provide input into Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decisions around the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- It is well-documented that exploration and other oil and gas industrial activity introduce high risks of significant negative

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impacts to wildlife populations, particularly migratory caribou herds like the Porcupine Caribou herd.

- We and our partners have consistently identified and demonstrated the sensitivity of caribou to development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and we have long sought the protection of caribou and their critical calving grounds.
- The Governments of Yukon, Canada, and the Inuvialuit recently signed the Aullaviat / Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area Agreement to further protect the herd's calving areas in Canada.
- The Government of Yukon remains deeply engaged in the work of the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee, under the International Porcupine Caribou Agreement, in monitoring the health of the herd and its habitat.
- We maintain the position that any development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will have significant adverse impacts and recently re-iterated this position in our letter to the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Record of Decision and the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

Recommended response (if asked about moratorium on offshore oil and gas development):

- The moratorium on offshore oil and gas development in Canada's Arctic remains in place.

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- The governance structure under the Accord strengthens our collective role in consultation and decision-making related to the moratorium and any future oil and gas activities in the Beaufort Sea.
- The Accord gives the Government of Yukon a voice in national offshore oil and gas management and, if development occurs, will ensure that the Yukon's socio-economic and environmental interests are respected.

Recommended response (if asked about Canada-US border):

- Canada and the U.S. have an ongoing dispute over the maritime boundary in the Beaufort Sea that has resulted in an overlapping disputed area.
- A joint Canada – US task force was created in September 2024 to resolve the overlapping claims.
- Global Affairs Canada is engaging with the Governments of Yukon and Northwest Territories and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation on the issue.
- We expect that negotiations will be ongoing for several years.

Recommended response (if asked about historic Beaufort revenues):

- We are in discussions with Canada and the Northwest Territories about revenues collected from historical oil and gas activities in the Beaufort area.
- Discussions are proceeding positively towards securing an allocation of these revenues for the benefit of Yukoners.

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Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about how the Yukon is or will be responding to recent changes in United States policy around Arctic energy and specifically the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- The United States' Executive Order seeks to maximize the development and production of natural resources in Alaska, particularly energy projects.
- There may be enquiries about the status of the implementation of the Accord.
- There may be concerns about the protection of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, particularly from the Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation.

Background:

Canada / US relations as it relates to the Region

- U.S. President Trump has noted an intent to increase domestic oil and gas production. This may lead to increased interest in offshore resource development in the Beaufort Sea.
- On January 20, U.S. President Trump signed Executive Order "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential" which directs agencies to maximize the development and production of natural resources on public lands including oil and gas reserves in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. The order:
 - directs agencies to rescind regulations that hinder development and production of natural resources and to expedite and/or initiate permitting and leasing of energy and natural resource projects.
 - provides direction to develop and produce oil and gas on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge northern coastal plain by withdrawing halted activities, rescinding existing lease cancellations, rescinding environmental impact statements and initiating new leasing.
 - directs the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to deny the pending request of the Gwich'in in Alaska to establish the coastal plain of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge as an Indigenous sacred site to protect the Porcupine

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caribou herd.

- The Canadian/US Offshore border remains in dispute between the countries, which could lead to additional tension in the area, should offshore exploration and production increase.
- If drilling is implemented under the United States' projected borders it would directly impact the Yukon's interest in the area under the Arctic-Tariuq (Offshore) Accord.
- The departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources are assessing what this means for the Yukon. There are a number of legal actions that are expected to arise from the order.

Western Arctic-Tariuq (Offshore) Accord / oil and gas resources

- The Beaufort Sea, on the Yukon's north coast, is considered a world-class oil and gas basin.
- The Western Arctic-Tariuq (Offshore) Accord fulfills a federal commitment from the 1993 Canada-Yukon Oil and Gas Accord and the 2013 NWT Lands and Resources Devolution to negotiate an offshore Agreement with the Yukon and Government of NWT.
- The Offshore Accord is a co-management and revenue-sharing agreement between the parties. Shared management and regulation will be implemented in three phases.
 - **Phase 1 (current).** Pre-implementation phase remains in effect until the Accord is implemented in legislation. The Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada consults with the signatories to manage oil and gas matters in the Accord area.
 - **Phase 2.** Transitional phase begins when the Accord is enacted into law. An executive co-management committee of Ministers from Canada, the Yukon and Northwest Territories governments and a representative from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation is established.
 - **Phase 3.** If the moratorium lifts and development proposed for the region, an Independent Joint Board would be created and constituted in legislation.
- The Accord is currently being formalized in federal legislation, through a

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process that includes input from all parties to the Accord.

- Since the Federal Parliament was prorogued in January, all parliamentary activities are suspended but the drafting of legislation by Canada continues.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

- The Arctic National Wildlife Range was established in 1960 to preserve unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values. In 1980, this was expanded and re-designated as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).
- The Refuge protects 19.6 million acres of northeastern Alaska with the stated purpose of: conserving fish and wildlife populations in their natural diversity, fulfilling international wildlife treaty obligations, providing opportunities for continued subsistence uses, and protecting water quality and quantity.
- While the majority of the Refuge is designated as wilderness under ANILCA, 1.5 million acres of the Coastal Plain area has been in a constant state of limbo as Section 1002 of ANILCA deferred a decision on whether or not to allow oil and gas exploration and development in this area. This area has come to be referred to as the '1002' lands.
- Since this time, an act of U.S. Congress is required to either permanently protect the Coastal Plain of the Refuge or open it up to exploitation. For decades, efforts by various levels of government, Indigenous organizations, conservation groups and the public have prevented oil and gas exploration and development in the Refuge despite strong lobbying by big oil companies and the desire of some members of U.S. Congress.
- The Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation has stated that they will continue to use every legislative, regulatory and legal tool they have available to protect the Refuge. They are actively identifying next steps for the period leading up to the US mid-term elections as well as for the duration of the current 4-year mandate.
- Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation states it will continue these protection efforts

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along with the Gwich'in Steering Committee, Arctic Defense Campaign, and Parties of the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement.

The Arctic Offshore Moratorium

- In 2016, the Government of Canada enacted an indefinite moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration in the Western Arctic.
- The moratorium will be reviewed every five years by Canada in consultation with the other parties, with the next review due in 2028.
- In 2019, the Parties established a Five-Year Review Committee to undertake a science-based five-year review of the federal moratorium.
- The first five-year science-based review concluded in 2023, after which the Government of Canada decided to maintain the indefinite moratorium and support a subsequent review to guide future decisions about the moratorium.
- The second review, focusing on climate and marine science, is underway. The Five-Year Review Committee is also conducting studies on socio-economic and geopolitical issues, as well as the impacts of sea ice change and greenhouse gas emissions in the Western Arctic offshore region.
- The observations from the Five-Year Review Committee will be shared with the decision-makers to determine whether the moratorium should be maintained.
- The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Government of Northwest Territories publicly stated that they are not in support of the moratorium and would like to see it lifted so that northerners can make their own decision about future oil and gas development
- There have been no public statements on the moratorium by the Government of Yukon.

Canada-US Border

- Canada and the U.S. have an ongoing dispute over the maritime boundary in the Beaufort Sea.
- Canada's position is that the 1825 Treaty establishes the maritime boundary along the 141st meridian of longitude, as an extension of the agreed land boundary.
- The United States' position is that the 1825 Treaty only established the land

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boundary between Canada and the United States, and that the maritime boundary follows an equidistance line from the coast.

- A joint Canada – US task force was created in September 2024 to resolve the overlapping claims.
- The Government of Yukon is updated periodically on the task force work from Global Affairs Canada.
- The intention of Global Affairs Canada is to engage with the governments of Yukon and Northwest Territories and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, as all Parties will be affected by any loss of jurisdiction to the United States.

Historic Beaufort revenues

- In the 2022 Federal budget, Canada committed to a one-time payment of \$25.8M to the Government of Yukon and Government of the Northwest Territories to fulfill a commitment to pay revenues from offshore oil and gas activities between 1993 and 2016.
- Although the commitment was made to the Yukon solely through the 1993 Canada – Yukon Oil and Gas Accord, Canada indicated that the money will be paid to both the Yukon and Northwest Territories in a division to be decided between the territories.
- Since 2022, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories have been negotiating a division of the funds; the 2023 election in the Northwest Territories delayed the process.
- As of early 2025, the process is proceeding and there is indication that an agreement is imminent.
- The timeline is uncertain for Canada to provide payment when the negotiation is complete.

Session Briefing Note
Beaufort and ANWR

EMR #83 /ENV #82
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Environment

Approved By:

Paul Moore

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

March 5, 2025

Date Approved

Dennis Berry

Deputy Minister

Department of Environment

February 28, 2025

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Whitehorse Gravel Availability

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are assessing and managing gravel and other granular materials in the territory to meet the long-term needs of Yukoners.
- The Whitehorse area continues to experience intense development, including building and road construction.
- Development pressures increase the demand for granular material.

Additional response:

- We are working with the City of Whitehorse to find new areas for quarry development and to optimize existing quarry lease sites.
- Quarry leases provide economic opportunities for Yukon First Nations development corporations that own gravel operations, as well as to other local businesses to provide granular material for a wide range of needs.
- There are no projects approved to proceed in the Stevens Quarry area.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The rapid development of Whitehorse is increasing the demand for granular material.
 - Annie Lake trucking was found in contempt of court in January 2025 for refusing to vacate City of Whitehorse land at their expired quarry lease near Ear Lake.
-

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Whitehorse Gravel Availability

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

Current granular resources

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources manages 18 privately held quarry leases in Whitehorse, with another application approved on August 30, 2024, for a quarry on the Copper Haul Road. This application is awaiting rezoning through the City of Whitehorse before the lease can be issued.
- The department manages four public gravel pits in the Whitehorse area that provide Yukoners with up to 35 cubic metres of free granular material for personal non-commercial use.
- A review of granular resources in Whitehorse and updated surficial mapping has been completed and will inform future planning for gravel.

Stevens Quarry

- The City of Whitehorse approved its Official Community Plan on March 27, 2023, changing the designation of the Stevens Quarry area from Natural Resource Extraction to Future Planning.
- Development at Stevens Quarry is not expected in the near future.
- Two projects have been submitted to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board for the development of Stevens Quarry; the first in 2012 by the Government of Yukon and a second project in 2020 by a private proponent, Norcope Enterprises. Neither project received regulatory approval to proceed.

Approved by:

Heather Mills**January 22, 2025**

Acting Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 7, 2025
Last Updated:

Recommended Response:

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

Context:

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

Background:

Whistle Bend Subdivision

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

Copper Ridge Parcels 519/520

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

Joint YG- Kwanlin Dün First Nation Range Point Road

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

Whistle Bend South Bench

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

North/South Future Growth Areas

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

Valleyview South Master Plan (including Tank Farm)

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

New Commercial/Industrial Subdivision

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

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

<p>Date approved</p>

Recommended response:

- Yukon's vibrant and growing communities need a supply of land to support growth. By working hand in hand with municipalities, First Nations, and the private sector, we are ensuring families and businesses have the space they need to grow and thrive.
- From feasibility studies to final lot preparation, Community Services is driving land development forward across Yukon's municipalities, helping to turn vision into reality.
- This year we are unlocking historic new possibilities with the release of 44 serviced lots in the new Dahl Gahy-Mountain Ridge subdivision in Haines Junction and 43 lots in the new Francis extension in Watson Lake. 18 of the Francis lots will be transferred to Liard First Nation, supporting local housing needs.
- Through our rural land development program, we are creating a well-planned, sustainable Yukon, ensuring that housing needs are met today and for generations to come.

Context:

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

Background:

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

Community Summaries

Carmacks

- Six partially serviced Prospector Extension lots were released in Summer 2024.
- Feasibility is complete and planning efforts have been initiated for three country residential sites. LDB aims to proceed with a YESAA submission and complete the detailed design for one of these sites by spring 2026.

Dawson

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

Faro

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

Haines Junction

- Two urban lots were released in summer 2024. One lot is currently available over the counter.
- The serviced Dahl Gahy-Mountain Ridge subdivision will be completed in spring 2025 (44 lots) and lots released in 2025.
- The master plan for the Area 3 country residential (~63 lot) subdivision is targeted for completion in 2025.

Mayo

- Five infill lots were released in summer 2024. There are currently two lots available over the counter.
- 7th Ave North urban expansion master plan is complete. YESAA submission and detailed design will advance in 2025 or 2026.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# LD-02

Spring 2025

Rural Land Development

Community Services

Teslin

- 21 Lone Tree and two large airport industrial lots were released in summer 2024.
- Joint TTC-YG Green Subdivision master plan is near completion. Airport West feasibility is complete, and planning work could begin in 2025 or 2026.

Watson Lake

- One vacant infill lot was released in summer 2024. There is currently one lot available over the counter.
- Francis Avenue 43 lot extension and lift station construction is targeted for completion in spring 2025. Under YG-LFN agreement, 18 lots will be transferred to Liard First Nation plus one lot is owned by the town of Watson Lake. The remaining 24 lots will be sold in summer 2025.

Whitehorse Periphery

- 20 lots (16 Grizzly Valley, two Golden Horn, two Mendenhall) were released in summer 2024.

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

Session Briefing Note

Managing Unauthorized Occupancies

#90
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is aware of cabins, docks and other structures built without authorization in the Yukon's wilderness areas.
- Illegal occupancies negatively impact Yukon First Nations rights and titles, alienate other public land users, and are often associated with other illegal activities such as cutting trees or creating unauthorized roads and trails.
- Unauthorized occupancies impact the Yukon's wilderness and create liabilities for Yukon citizens and governments.

Additional response:

- We continue to address unauthorized structures on public land through regulatory and prevention measures as well as education.
- Regulation of unauthorized occupancy is important for Yukoners' safety, environmental health and to preserve the respectful use of the land.
- We are modernizing our land legislation and creating a strong framework to give us the tools needed to manage land use in Yukon wilderness areas.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest due to previous media attention on the unauthorized cabins at Ensley Creek and in Carcross/Tagish Traditional Territory and Little Atlin Lake.

Session Briefing Note

Managing Unauthorized Occupancies

#90
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch is aware of nearly 500 documented unauthorized occupancies across the Yukon that have infrastructure including cabins, fuel storage and other structures. There are likely additional, undocumented sites.
- Addressing unauthorized occupancies is prioritized based on risk and available resources.
- High-profile unauthorized occupancies, such as those at Ensley Creek, could have encouraged additional ones if not actioned promptly.
- Education and seeking voluntary compliance are the first approaches when dealing with unauthorized occupancies.
- Enforcement is a necessary response when there is no voluntary compliance. Enforcement measures protect public land, maintain the public's ability to access land, and address risks to human safety and environmental damage.
- The Government of Yukon works proactively with Yukon First Nations and municipalities regarding structures built on public land.

Ensley Creek Cabins

- Three unauthorized cabins were constructed in the vicinity of Ensley Creek southwest of Dawson City between 2015 and 2020 and were occupied by three individuals.
- All three occupants were notified that their occupancies of territorial land were unlawful and were asked to voluntarily vacate the land and remove all buildings and chattels. None complied.
- In March 2022, under section 18 of the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act*, the Government of Yukon filed a petition in the Supreme Court which was served on the occupants. No responses were filed by the respondents.
- Case management conferences were held for all three occupants. Summons were issued by the Court for two occupants and hearing dates were set.

Session Briefing Note

Managing Unauthorized Occupancies

#90
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- One occupant reached an agreement with the Government of Yukon as a result of the case management conference and agreed to remove their cabin and all personal items. This was completed by the end of 2022.
- One occupant removed their cabin and personal belongings prior to their hearing date, no further court action was required.
- One occupant left the Dawson area and was therefore no longer occupying the structures. Their hearing date was cancelled, and their cabin was deemed abandoned. The Government of Yukon removed the structures and personal belongings in late 2023.

Little Atlin Lake

- In 2024, the Government of Yukon ordered the dismantling of two cabins which were built in the late 1990s on placer claims near Little Atlin Lake, addressing longstanding concerns raised by the Carcross/Tagish First Nation.
- The owner of both structures has successfully dismantled and removed both the cabins and their foundations from the Little Atlin Lake site.
- Carcross/Tagish First Nation are supportive of the efforts to address the occupation and have worked cooperatively with Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections branch.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

January 21, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

TAB #24

Spring 2025

Project 1096 (Northern Community Land Trust Society)

Yukon Housing
Corporation

Recommended response:

- Our government has fulfilled our mandate commitment to support the Northern Community Land Trust Society's transformative Project 1096, creating 32 permanently affordable homes for Yukoners.
 - With construction well underway, Northern Community Land Trust Society's Project 1096 will make home ownership more accessible for lower to moderate income families and individuals.
 - Our government is supporting this initiative with up to \$5 million in construction funding, a land donation, and ensuring this innovative affordability model is sustained through amendments to the *Land Titles Act*.
-

Context:

- Mandate commitment: Supporting the community land trust to advance its project in Whitehorse.
-

Background:

- The Northern Community Land Trust Society is a Whitehorse-based non-profit organization that aims to build affordable housing in the territory.
- Using a price-restricted sales model protects the affordability of Project 1096 homes by allowing the owner to resell at prices that can increase over time only at the rate of inflation.
- This development will operate as a condominium corporation with legally binding bylaws bolstered by changes to the *Land Titles Act* that support ongoing affordability using statutory restrictive covenants.
- The Northern Community Land Trust Society provides an opportunity for households earning less than 80 per cent of the Yukon median income to achieve home ownership and, over time, build equity.
- The Northern Community Land Trust Society intends to use statutory covenants registered on title to limit the increase in resale pricing of the homes to the rate of inflation, to maintain long-term affordability.
- The Yukon government amendments of the *Land Titles Act* in fall 2024 enables the use of statutory covenants on property titles to maintain affordability across ownership changes.

Session Briefing Note

**Project 1096 (Northern
Community Land Trust Society)**

**TAB #24
Spring 2025**
Yukon Housing
Corporation

<p>2025-02-05 Date approved</p>

**Session Briefing Note
First Nation of Nacho Nyak
Dun Regional Planning**Energy, Mines and
Resources
and Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding which advances land use planning in the Nacho Nyak Dun area, including the Beaver River watershed.
- We are dedicated to prioritizing the important work of land planning and are eager to see this regional land use planning process advance.

Additional response:

- The draft Memorandum of Understanding proposes that the Beaver River planning process will be incorporated into the Chapter 11 regional land use planning process for the Nacho Nyak Dun area.
- The outcomes of the recent appeal decision for the proposed Metallic Metals exploration project in the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun highlight the important role of land use planning.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions regarding land use planning in the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun's Traditional Territory.

Background:**Regional Land Use Planning:**

- Regional Land Use Planning is detailed in Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements. Under the Final Agreements, the Government of Yukon and involved First Nations (the Parties) sign a Terms of Reference establishing a Regional Land Use Planning Commission which develops and provides a Recommended Regional Land Use Plan

Session Briefing Note

First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Regional Planning

Energy, Mines and
Resources
and Environment

to the Parties. If necessary, the Commission also develops and provides a Final Recommended Regional Land Use Plan.

- The Government of Yukon and involved First Nations have typically developed a Memorandum of Understanding on how the parties will work together to advance Chapter 11 Regional Land Use Planning for a region, in advance of finalizing the Terms of Reference for the Commission.
- The Government of Yukon and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun have been negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding for regional land use planning in the Nacho Nyak Dun area since 2022.
- The heap leach failure at Victoria Gold Corporation's Eagle Mine on June 24, 2024, and ongoing emergency response has required a significant diversion of Government of Yukon and First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun personnel and resources.

Beaver River Land Use Planning:

- The Beaver River land use planning process is not an Umbrella Final Agreement Chapter 11 sub-regional planning process. Rather, it comes out of the 2018 Intergovernmental Agreement between the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Government of Yukon, which supports the proposed (ATAC) Hecla Mining Company all-season tote road.
- The 2018 Agreement states that a land use plan must be finalized before any road construction occurs.
- ATAC Resources Ltd. has sold many of its mineral holdings in the Yukon to Hecla Mining Company, including its Rackla Gold and Connaught projects.
- On March 15, 2021, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun petitioned the Supreme Court of Yukon to set aside the Government of Yukon's issuance of a Decision Document for the Metallic Minerals proposed exploration project in the Beaver River watershed in part due to the ongoing Beaver River Land Use Planning process.
- On January 31, 2023, the Supreme Court of Yukon ruled consultation with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to be inadequate and overturned the Government of Yukon's decision document for the Metallic Minerals project. The Government of

Session Briefing Note
First Nation of Nacho Nyak
Dun Regional Planning

Yukon appealed this court decision to the Yukon Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal largely dismissed the Government of Yukon's appeal in a decision released on April 9, 2024. (See EMR BN #109)

Approved by:

Paul Moore

February 6, 2025

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved**Dennis Berry****February 5, 2025**

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Local Area Planning

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We work with First Nations governments, Local Area Councils, and Yukoners to create zoning that reflects local contexts, helps resolve competing land uses, and guides future development.
- Sometimes [zoning is created](#) through Local Area Planning processes and sometimes through more targeted work on zoning regulations.
- We are currently working with First Nations governments on local area plans for Łu Zil Män (Sloo-Zill-Mun, or Fish Lake) [\(See BN #102\)](#), and for the Alaska Highway West, Marsh Lake, and Tagish areas.
- We are working with the Ibex Valley Local Advisory Council to explore potential zoning updates and examining zoning regulations in the Golden Horn and Shallow Bay areas. [\(See BN #97\)](#)

Additional response:

- There are seven local area plans currently in effect: Mount Lorne, Deep Creek, Ibex Valley, Hotsprings Road, Golden Horn, West Dawson and Sunnysdale, and Carcross. Two of these plans were co-developed with First Nations.
- There are four local area plans in development: Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake), Alaska Highway West, Marsh Lake and Tagish.
- It is important that local area plans reflect local contexts; we value the voices and priorities of each community.

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Spring 2025

Local Area Planning

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Community members regularly seek updates on the status of community planning processes.

Background:

- Local area plans are long range guidance documents developed with First Nations and communities. Plans typically contain a vision, policies, and land use designations, while the development of plans is most often guided by a Steering Committee.
- Local Area Plans are not required under Yukon government legislation and are typically implemented by creating zoning under the *Area Development Act* (2002).
- Local area plans developed within the Traditional Territories of Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Carcross/Tagish First Nation are subject to local area planning processes described in their respective Self-Government Agreements.

Status of notable local area planning and rezoning processes:

Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake)

- The Government of Yukon and Kwanlin Dün First Nation are developing the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Local Area Plan. A steering committee composed of local residents and Kwanlin Dün citizens is guiding the planning process.
- Before the plan is approved by both governments, the public will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft plan, tentatively planned for later in 2025.

Alaska Highway West Local Area Plan

- The Government of Yukon and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations held public engagement events and produced a background report for the plan in 2024. A planning process to create a vision [and values will start in late spring 2025, including an online survey and open houses in Haines Junction, Champagne and Mendenhall.](#)

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Local Area Planning

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Golden Horn

- In spring 2024, public input was collected for a potential zoning change in the Golden Horn area that could allow smaller lot sizes and more flexibility to build additional housing. Most respondents did not support reducing the minimum lot size from 3 to 2 hectares (of 99 responses, 44 supported and 55 opposed).
- There was a slight majority in support of increased setbacks (56 supported, 43 opposed) and broad support for the residential use of guest cabins (70 supported, 29 opposed).

Shallow Bay

- In summer 2024, the Department of Environment released flood mapping for the Shallow Bay area, allowing the rezoning to be considered again. Now that flood mapping is complete, we are re-engaging with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to inform next steps.

Approved by:**Paul Moore****May 1, 2025**

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Shallow Bay Zoning

#97
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Residents of Shallow Bay have expressed an interest in potential zoning changes for the area.
- Some of the potential changes could include changes to the minimum lot size, changes to principal, accessory, and discretionary uses, and potential setbacks from the property line.
- A public process was started in 2018 and then was paused in 2021 after the Southern Lakes flood emergency so that we could complete flood hazard mapping for the area.
- Flood hazard mapping for the Shallow Bay area was completed in summer 2024 and is available online.
- Now that flood mapping is complete, we are re-engaging [on next steps](#) with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, [who has recently stated they have an interest in pursuing a sub-regional planning process](#) for the Shallow Bay/Lake Laberge area before completing zoning.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon values the voices of local residents and First Nations in the potential [planning or re-zoning process](#) of the Shallow Bay area.
- The Shallow Bay What We Heard report, summarizing feedback from the 2021 public engagement, is available online.

Session Briefing Note

Shallow Bay Zoning

#97
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Community members and the opposition may have questions about the Shallow Bay zoning process.

Background:

- Between 2015 and 2017, residents of Shallow Bay expressed an interest in lowering the minimum lot size for rural residential properties and requested that zoning changes reflect the unique social, cultural, and ecological values of the Shallow Bay area.
- In May 2018, the Government of Yukon and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council established the Shallow Bay Zoning Committee to assist with the development of draft zoning regulations for the area. The committee includes representation from property owners and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.
- The committee reached a consensus on the proposed new zoning in December 2020. Input on the zoning was received from the public and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council citizens.
- The Shallow Bay What We Heard report, summarizing feedback from the 2021 public engagement, is available online. Notable input included:
 - strong interest in maintaining the current minimum lot size of 6-hectares. 72 per cent of respondents had concerns with 4-hectare lot sizes and 81 per cent had concerns with 3-hectare lot sizes;
 - diverging local stances on inclusion of a 60-metre riparian buffer that would limit private property development near Lake Laberge and Horse Creek;
 - concerns regarding the lack of supporting studies to justify why 60 metres was used for the riparian buffer were also noted, and;
 - concerns about the overall process, including historical displacement of Ta'an Kwäch'än citizens.

Session Briefing Note

Shallow Bay Zoning

#97
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Flood mapping produced in 2024 shows 13 privately-owned lots and 2 TKC land selections contain flood-prone areas. The furthest extent of the flood-prone areas in Shallow Bay extends 800m from the shoreline.
- Ta'an Kwach'an Council sent a letter dated March 12, 2025 requesting to initiate a Memorandum of Understanding process with Government of Yukon to start a sub-regional planning process for the Shallow Bay/Lake Laberge area.

Approved by:

____Paul Moore_____
Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

__March 20, 2025____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Peel Implementation

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We continue to meet regularly with our First Nations partners from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Gwich'in Tribal Council to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan (the Peel Plan).
- Implementation includes monitoring, research, and managing permanent and temporary staking prohibitions within the conservation areas identified in the Peel Plan, and exploring legal designations for these areas.
- As part of implementation, the Wind River Trail was decommissioned in September 2024 – this means it is no longer a public road under the *Highways Act*.
- Mineral projects proposed on existing claims, such as the Michelle Creek project, only proceed if they meet the requirements of the Peel Plan and the Yukon's assessment and regulatory regimes, which include reviewing for conformity with the Peel Plan. (See BN #100)

Additional response:

- We worked with our First Nations partners to include the Peel region's special management areas as interim protected areas under the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database, which is a federal conservation area accounting initiative.

Session Briefing Note

Peel Implementation

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- We are also working with the Government of Canada on a potential National Park in the area. (See ENV BN# 9 - Peel Land Use Plan and Territorial Peel Parks)
 - Through the Peel Plan Implementation Committee, we are clarifying the Peel Plan recommendations of adequate baseline data required for evaluating proposed projects.
-

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about implementation of the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.
-

Background:

- Three types of conservation areas in the Peel Watershed Region have been withdrawn from staking under the Quartz Mining Act and the Placer Mining Act. Special Management Areas have been withdrawn indefinitely and represent 55 per cent of the region. Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Areas-Boreal Caribou are withdrawn until January 1, 2030, representing 28 per cent of the region.
 - More than 6,500 out of almost 9,000 mineral claims in the Peel have either lapsed or been relinquished in exchange for non-monetary compensation.
 - We provide opportunities for relinquishment of mineral claims for eligible claim holders in the designated Peel conservation areas in exchange for non-financial incentives, such as a period of relief from assessment of mineral claims in other regions of the territory. (See BN #116)
 - In 2021, Silver47 Exploration Corp. submitted a proposal for a Class 3 quartz exploration program on their Michelle Creek property, overlapping several Landscape Management Units within the Peel Watershed region. (See BN #100)
-

Session Briefing Note
Peel Implementation

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

Paul Moore

January 29, 2025

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Peel Land Use Plan Implementation / National and Territorial Peel Parks

Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon continues to work with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Gwich'in Tribal Council to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.
- We have been working together to designate specific Special Management Areas identified in the Peel Plan as protected areas under legislation.
- As part of this work, we are collaborating with the federal government, Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun on a feasibility assessment for a national park that could include the Turner Lake Wetlands, Caribou River, and the Peel River corridor areas.
- We are also working toward designating the Special Management Area that covers the Richardson Mountains and Vittrekwa River area as a territorial park, and confirming the best designation to achieve full protection for the Wind, Snake and Bonnet Plume Rivers.
- Combined, these three areas cover over seven percent of the Yukon.

National Park Feasibility Assessment in the Peel Watershed:

- Recently, the Government of Yukon, Gwich'in Tribal Council, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and Parks Canada, announced a public engagement period for the proposed new national park in the Turner Lake Wetlands, Caribou River, and the Peel River corridor.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Peel Land Use Plan Implementation / National and Territorial Peel Parks

Environment

- This engagement period is an opportunity for Yukoners and Canadians to provide input on designation, boundaries, and management of this area.
- The input received through the engagement will be considered as part of the overall feasibility and desirability of a national park.
- If established, a new national park would permanently protect 3,000 square kilometres of rich and diverse landscapes.
- Protection of this area is a key step toward implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan and supports the conservation and protection goals of the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement.

Peel Territorial Parks:

- The Parties to the Peel Plan, which include the governments of First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the Gwich'in Tribal Council and Yukon, are discussing the establishment of two territorial parks in the Peel Watershed.
- We are working together to designate the first park under the Yukon's *Parks and Land Certainty Act* in the Richardson Mountains and Vittrekwa River and hope to have it established in 2025.
- Once designated, the Government of Yukon will work with First Nation partners to co-develop the management direction for the park, which will include an opportunity for the public to provide input.
- The Parties are also working together to achieve full protection of the Special Management Area that includes the Wind, Snake and Bonnet Plume Rivers.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Peel Land Use Plan Implementation /
National and Territorial Peel Parks**

Environment

- This area covers about six per cent of the Yukon and, if designated as a territorial park, would be 14 times larger than Tombstone Park.

Additional response:

- Other implementation activities from the Peel Plan include the establishment of two hydrometric stations on the Snake and Wind Rivers. These stations monitor water levels and flow and are used to forecast the likelihood of flooding. Data from these stations can be accessed by the public in real time.
- Accessible water data increases safety of river users and is valuable for understanding environmental change in the area.
- We have also produced publicly-available mapping products, which used satellite imagery to map wetlands and areas of existing disturbance. These products can be used to inform future land management planning and decision-making.
- Two areas within the Peel Watershed have been nominated by the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute to be National Historic Sites. These are areas of great cultural importance to the Teetł'it Gwich'in. The nominations are supported by all five parties to the Peel Plan.
- We look forward to continuing collaborative work with First Nations partners to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The public continues to show interest in the implementation of the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.
- Public engagement and First Nation consultation for the Teetł'it Gwinjik (Peel River) National Park is planned for February 3 to March 17, 2025.

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Peel Land Use Plan Implementation / National and Territorial Peel Parks

Environment

Background:

- The Peel Plan Implementation Committee consists of representatives from all five governments who are signatories to the Peel Plan and are responsible for overseeing the Plan's implementation.
- In the proposed territorial park areas, non-industrial land uses, such as hunting, trapping, outfitting, and commercial tourism will be allowed to continue within the parks. As per the Peel Plan, no new industrial development or new surface access will be allowed. Existing mining claims will be recognized.
- The proposed national park area does not overlap with any outfitting concession and licensed resident hunters rarely visit the area because of its remoteness. Subsistence harvest rights in this area will not be affected should it become a national park. There are no mineral claims in the area.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

Deputy Minister of Environment

January 27, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

10 Mile Policy

#99
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon established the 10 Mile Road Area Future Planning Policy following discussions with Carcross/Tagish First Nation concerning the impacts of development on caribou.
- The Government of Yukon and Carcross/Tagish First Nation recognize that the area between Tagish and Carcross provides a migration corridor and core winter habitat for the Carcross caribou herd.
- In recognition of the particular importance of caribou to their traditional way of life, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation requested that the Government of Yukon protect this area from further development.

Additional response:

- The policy is an interim measure to restrict additional subdivision of lots while future planning takes place.
- The 10 Mile policy will remain in place until it is replaced by a land use plan, development area plan, or another planning scheme. Public engagement will occur during the land use planning process.
- The Government of Yukon is advancing regional land use planning in the southern lakes in partnership with Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Teslin Tlingit Council as well as exploring the establishment of a Special Management Area in the area.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 10 Mile Road Area Future Planning Policy was established in July 2024 and notices were sent to the affected property owners.

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10 Mile Policy

#99
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The 10 Mile Road Area Future Planning Policy was established under the Area Development Act.
- The 10 Mile Road Area Future Planning Policy establishes that the minimum lot size for the area is 35 hectares or the size of an existing lot, whichever is larger.
- The policy is in response to Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) opposition to new subdivision applications in this area and concerns about impacts of development on the Carcross caribou herd.
- Much of the area is already reserved for the purpose of protecting caribou habitat and no new land dispositions are currently considered.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

January 21, 2025

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Michelle Creek Project

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board provides recommendations to the Government of Yukon as to whether a project should proceed and what terms or conditions may be necessary.
- If the recommendation lacks a thorough and defensible analysis with sufficient information, the Government of Yukon cannot make a fully informed decision to accept, reject or vary the recommendation.
- We sought a judicial review of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's recommendation for the Michelle Creek mineral exploration project.

Additional response:

- On March 5, the Yukon Supreme Court ruled that the Board's decision was not open to judicial review.
- We are committed to fulfilling the spirit and intent of the Final Agreements and the Yukon's *Environmental and Socioeconomic Assessment Act* and to implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.
- Advancing regional land use planning and implementing existing regional land use plans helps reduce land use conflicts and provides more certainty for Yukoners and industry.

Context — this may be an issue because:

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Michelle Creek Project

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- There may be questions on the judicial review of the Michelle Creek mineral exploration project announced in May 2023 and court hearings in November 2024.

Background:

- On December 16, 2022, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) recommended that the Michelle Creek Project not be allowed to proceed due to significant adverse effects to wildlife and First Nation wellness, and lack of adequate baseline data to effectively mitigate the adverse effects.
- The proposed Michelle Creek Project is a mineral exploration project on claims within the Peel Watershed region. The claims were staked and existed before the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan (the Peel Plan) was approved in August 2019.
- This is the first mineral project proposed in an area with an approved Regional Land Use Plan under Chapter 11 of a Final Agreement that has undergone an environmental assessment by YESAB.
- The Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan respects existing mineral claims and leases. It provides directions on mineral development and management of lands and resources in the Peel River watershed. (See BN #98)
- The proposed mineral exploration project overlaps several Landscape Management Units designated for conservation and development, increasing the complexity of analysis.
- During YESAB's evaluation of the Michelle Creek Project, the Yukon Land Use Planning Council submitted comments that the project conformed with the Peel Plan. Two affected Yukon First Nations submitted comments that the proposed project did not conform with the Peel Plan.
- On May 29, 2023, the Government of Yukon applied for a judicial review of the assessment of the Michelle Creek Project after several flaws were identified in the

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Michelle Creek Project

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Resources

evaluation report, resulting in a recommendation without sufficient information, which impacted the government's ability to make an informed decision.

- The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act does not allow for a reconsideration of the Board's evaluation report except through a judicial review.
- The Michelle Creek Project is the first time that the Government of Yukon has requested a judicial review of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's recommendation for a project.
- On March 5, 2025 the Yukon Supreme Court ruled that YESAB's decision was not open for judicial review.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

March 6, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

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RRDC-IPCA

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) are conservation areas where Indigenous governments have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems.
- We signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ross River Dena Council and Parks Canada in December 2024 as the first step toward understanding the values of a potential IPCA and National Park Reserve in the Ross River area.
- The Ross River Area and the rest of the Kaska asserted traditional territory have been withdrawn from mineral staking since 2013.
- The Memorandum of Understanding does not affect or impact existing land access, tenure, rights, or uses authorized or permitted in the area, including quartz mining land use approvals.

Additional response:

- A Steering Committee comprised of representatives from Ross River Dena Council, the Government of Yukon, and Parks Canada is responsible for the feasibility study work plan and timelines.
- We expect the feasibility study to take up to two years and will include stakeholder engagement in early 2025.
- The feasibility study will result in a recommendation report to Parks Canada, The Government of Yukon and Ross River Dena Council who will then determine whether to proceed with the project.

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Resources

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest on how a potential new park and protected area could impact current claims and projects, and future exploration and development.
 - There are five Class 3 and three Class 4 permitted quartz projects in the Ross River area that partly or entirely overlap with the study area. Under the Memorandum of Understanding, Ross River Dena Council, the Government of Yukon and Parks Canada agreed to exclude these eight quartz projects from the study area.
-

Background:

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) enabled the signatories to establish a Steering Committee and begin the feasibility study for a National Park Reserve and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) in the Ross River Area.
- The Parties expect to establish the Steering Committee in early 2025. The committee will be made up of representatives of the Government of Yukon, Parks Canada and the Ross River Dena Council.
- The geographical area identified in the MOU for the feasibility study makes up approximately 41,076 square kilometers, or 65 per cent of the Ross River Area of Kaska asserted traditional territory.
- On December 6, 2024, the Government of Yukon sent a letter to organizations and stakeholders in the area sharing information about the upcoming process and stakeholder engagement. The Government of Yukon held an online information session with the Yukon Chamber of Mines and its members on December 20, 2024. The session was attended by over 20 representatives from the mining industry.

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Resources

Approved by:

Paul Moore

February 28, 2025

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Local Area Plan**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon and Kwanlin Dün First Nation, assisted by the appointed Steering Committee, are developing a Local Area Plan for the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) area.
- The Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) planning area spans 460 square kilometres within the Traditional Territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, along the City of Whitehorse boundary.
- Public engagement in 2022 identified a vision, values and guiding principles for the area.

Additional response:

- The vision for the Local Area Plan states “Our intention is to protect and honour this remarkable place and our ancient connections to it by keeping it in a natural state”.
- There will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft plan during public engagement later this year.
- The public engagement on the draft plan will include public open houses, a public survey and meetings with residents and property owners in the area.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about the Fish Lake Local Area Plan and public engagement on the draft Local Area Plan.

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Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Local Area Plan

Energy, Mines and Resources

- In 2024, Gladiator Metals staked claims in the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) planning area; there may be questions if mineral activity is aligned with land use planning in the area (BN # 120)

Background:

- In 2020, the Government of Yukon (YG) and Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Local Area Plan.
- Local Area Plans are not required by YG legislation and are typically implemented by creating zoning under the Area Development Act (2002).
- Cooperative local area planning is in KDFN's Self-Government Agreement.
 - Section 30 of the Self-Government Agreement lays out a process for local area planning within KDFN's Traditional Territory but does not require planning to be done.
 - Each government may accept, reject, or modify the proposed plan received from the steering committee.
- An appointed Steering Committee composed of local residents and Kwanlin Dün citizens was established to guide the planning.

Gladiator Metals

- In 2024, Gladiator Metals staked claims in the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) planning area. Gladiator Metals has not submitted applications for mineral exploration work on these claims.
- Should Gladiator Metals submit an application such as a Class 1 Notification for review, the Mineral Resources Branch would review the proposed mineral exploration activities.
- Land development in most of the planning area, including the staked area, is regulated by the *Whitehorse Periphery Development Area Regulation* (2013),

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Plan**Energy, Mines and
Resources

which would not allow a Development Permit to be issued for mineral exploration and development.

Approved by:

Paul Moore

January 28, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Hecla - Keno Hill

#107
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Hecla Mining Corporation acquired the Keno Hill project from Alexco Resource Corp in late 2022 and put the Bermingham Mine into production in 2023.
- The Government of Yukon holds \$11.3 million in financial security for the mining operations in the Keno Hill Silver District.
- On February 5, 2025, the Government of Yukon issued an updated security determination of \$14.2 million. Hecla must furnish this security by [April 7, 2025](#).
- The Government of Yukon continues to review the Reclamation and Closure Plan for this site.
- Since November 2024, Hecla Mining Corporation has been asked to scale back power or conduct a full shutdown by the Yukon Energy multiple times during cold weather events.
- It is critical that the mine receives enough power to remain operational to preserve key infrastructure, such as water treatment facilities.

Additional response:

- Recent activities at the Keno Hill Mine site have included the completion of construction of the Phase II East Dry Stack Tailings facility in fall 2024 and building a preventive buttress to address instabilities in the Phase I Dry Stack Tailings facility buttress.

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Hecla - Keno Hill

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- The Government of Yukon contracted a geotechnical engineer to review actions taken by the company and ensure our response is guided by this expertise.
- I would like to thank Hecla for their diligence in contacting the Government of Yukon immediately after identifying issues and for working to build a preventive buttress, as recommended by their Engineer of Record.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised about what the Government of Yukon is doing to ensure stability of dry stack tailings at Keno Hill.
- Hecla is planning for future exploration, development and production in the area and will be preparing submissions for assessments. Amendments to existing authorizations will be required.

Background:

- Keno Hill mine site is in the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- Alexco Keno Hill Mining Corp. began mine production at Keno Hill in 2010. The site went into temporary closure from 2013 to 2019 due to low metal prices.
- Hecla acquired the Keno Hill Silver Project from Alexco Resource Corporation in late 2022. The company has made efforts to improve the safety culture at Keno Hill in 2023/2024 through training, supervision, and other practices.
- Hecla is a USA-based major with silver mines in the Yukon, Southeast Alaska and Idaho, as well as a gold mine in Quebec. Hecla acquired the Keno Hill silver mine from Alexco Resources Inc. in late 2022. Hecla permitted the Birmingham Mine into production in 2023, producing 1.5 million ounces of silver over a nearly 6-month production period in 2023.

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- On August 28, 2024 Hecla notified the Mineral Resources Branch of cracks discovered on the Phase I Dry Stack Tailings Facility buttress with some movement measured after its initial discovery.
- Hecla took action immediately to mitigate the situation under Section 19 (Emergency Situations) of the *Quartz Mining Land Use Regulation*, constructing a preventative buttress as recommended by the Engineer of Record. Ongoing monitoring has confirmed no further instability or movement.
- Hecla completed construction on Phase II East of the Dry Stack Tailings Facility during the Fall of 2024. Phase II West is planned for construction and completion in 2025/2026.
- The Keno Hill Silver District hosts numerous historical mining developments that are federal liabilities.
- The Elsa Reclamation and Development Company, a Hecla subsidiary, is under contract with the Government of Canada to carry out the site-wide closure and reclamation plan for these historical liabilities.
- All future production and development projects will require assessment by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board prior to application for a new or amended Quartz Mining Licence.

Compliance and Enforcement Status

- Natural Resource Officers conduct inspections to ensure compliance with licence conditions and legislative requirements.
- Major mine sites are inspected regularly with officers on site approximately once a month with the last inspection occurring on January 8, 2025.
- Inspection reports are publicly available on Waterline, the Yukon Water Board's public registry.

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Approved By:

Sierra van der Meer

March 19, 2025

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

**Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

ECO – EMR - ENV

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon respects the clarity provided in the ruling by the Yukon Court of Appeal on December 6, 2024.
- The court set aside the Decision Document for the Kudz Ze Kayah Project to allow Decision Bodies to consult further with Kaska on the economic feasibility of the project.
- [The Government of Yukon is committed to meeting the Court of Appeal's direction that all parties avoid delay during consultation.](#)
- Until a new Decision Document is issued, the review of BMC's regulatory applications for the Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project is on hold.
- We are committed to meaningful consultation and reconciliation with the Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation, Dease River First Nation and Kwadacha Nation and value the direction provided by both the Supreme Court of Yukon and Court of Appeal of Yukon.

Additional response:

- While mining is an important part of our territorial economy, we must ensure that industry operating today is not doing so at the expense of Yukoners or the environment.
- The Government of Yukon expects proponents to build relationships with and provide funding to First Nation governments and communities impacted by development projects.

**Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

Context — this may be an issue because:

- During the project assessment and subsequent consultation, Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation identified impacts from the project to their asserted Aboriginal rights. The First Nations oppose the project being licensed.
- On March 3, 2025, BMC Minerals Ltd. filed a motion for direction to the Court of Appeal requesting it direct the parties to conclude consultation by April 30, 2025, and issue a Decision Document mid-May 2025.
- The hearing occurred on March 28, 2025 and the Appeal Court dismissed BMC's application in oral reasons.
- Questions related to the Project regulatory review process were raised during the Yukon Legislative Assembly question period on Thursday March 27.

Background:

- On June 15, 2022, the Governments of Canada and Yukon issued a joint decision document to vary the Executive Committee's recommendations to allow the Project to proceed, subject to terms and conditions specified in the Final Screening Report.
- On July 20, 2022, the Ross River Dena Council, on its own behalf and on behalf of the Kaska First Nations, filed a petition for judicial review of the decision.
- In August of 2022, BMC Minerals Ltd. submitted applications to the Yukon government for a quartz mining licence and land leases. A Type-A water licence application was submitted to the Yukon Water Board.
- The Supreme Court of Yukon hearing for the petition was held in April of 2023.
- On January 2, 2024, the Supreme Court of Yukon issued its Reasons for Decision on the judicial review of the decision document for the Kudz Ze Kayah Project.
- The Supreme Court of Yukon concluded that the governments of Yukon and Canada failed to consult on Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation's concerns raised in the June 14, 2022, submission.

**Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

- The Yukon government's regulatory review of BMC's regulatory applications was paused because of the Court's decision, which set aside the June 15, 2022, decision document, until consultation obligations were fulfilled and a new decision document issued.
- As directed in the January 2, 2024, Supreme Court of Yukon's decision, the Government of Yukon and Government of Canada consulted on the Project with Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation on February 7 and 8, 2024 in Ross River.
- In February of 2024, Ross River Dena Council filed an appeal to the January 2, 2024, decision from the Supreme Court of Yukon.
- In their appeal of the Supreme Court's decision, the Kaska First Nations requested that:
 - both the January 2, 2024, Supreme Court decision and the June 15, 2022, decision document be set aside;
 - decision bodies complete meaningful and deep consultation with the Kaska First Nations on the Project; and
 - the Court refers the project back to Decision Bodies for reconsideration or to a Panel review by YESAB (Yukon Environmental & Socio-economic Assessment Board).
- On March 8, 2024, decision bodies issued a Decision Document recommending the project proceed to the regulatory phase.
- The Yukon Court of Appeal hearing for the appeal was held September 2024 and a decision was issued December 6, 2024.
- The Court of Appeal was explicit that it was setting aside the Decision Document for the limited purpose of additional consultation on one further issue, economic feasibility.
- On January 17, 2025, Yukon government and Federal Decision Bodies sent a letter to Liard First Nation and Ross River Dena Council [initiating consultation and](#) proposing a workplan for consultation on the economic feasibility of the Project.

**Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

- On March 28, 2025, Justice Groberman dismissed BMC's application for a court prescribed schedule for consultation on economic feasibility. Justice Groberman indicated it is up to the decision bodies to establish a reasonable schedule and that he did not have jurisdiction or sufficient background to amend the Court of Appeals decision.
- Following Justice Groberman's dismissal, the Government of Yukon and Federal Decision Bodies have been corresponding with Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation to establish meetings as per the proposed schedule that concludes consultation in mid-June.
- (See **ECO TAB 37** Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives).

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2025 04 16

Deputy Minister of the Executive Council Office_____
Date approved

___Heather Mills___ ___A/DM___

___April 10, 2025___

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Dennis Berry**April 7, 2025**_____
Deputy Minister of Environment_____
Date approved

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Coffee Gold Mine

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We continue to consult with affected First Nations on the Coffee Gold Mine project to ensure the project is developed and operated in a sustainable manner, based on strong environmental and social principles and performance.
- We are aware that Newmont intends to sell the Coffee Gold Mine project. The commitments and assurances made by Newmont during the environmental assessment process and specific agreements with affected First Nations will be conditions of any future sale.
- The Coffee Gold Mine is a proposed heap leach operation and is subject to the Premier's commitment to not license another heap leach project until the Independent Review of the Eagle Gold heap leach failure is complete.

Additional response:

- The outcomes of the Independent Review Board's review of the Eagle Gold Mine failure will help to inform next steps.
- We are working with Newmont to review and consult on the non-heap leach components of the Coffee Gold Mine licence application while the Independent Review Board is completing its work.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Coffee Gold Mine Project generates broad interest as it progresses closer to mine development and eventual operations.
- There is increased scrutiny of heap leach mine projects in the Yukon due to the June 2024 Eagle Gold Mine heap leach failure.

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Coffee Gold Mine

Spring 2025Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:**General Project Information**

- The Coffee Gold Mine is located approximately 130 kilometres south of Dawson City.
- The project is planned as an open pit and heap leach gold mine with a 30-month construction period followed by a 10-year operation phase and an 11-year closure phase.
- The access road to the project is proposed to be a 214-kilometre all-season road with barge crossings at the Stewart and the Yukon's rivers. The access route is a combination of existing roads, roads that require improvements, and new construction.
- The Government of Yukon, Transport Canada and Natural Resources Canada issued a joint Decision Document on March 3, 2022. This Decision Document accepted all terms and conditions in the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's Final Screening Report and accepted the recommendation that the project proceed.
- Newmont announced its plan to divest many of its properties following the acquisition of Newcrest; one of these properties is the Coffee Gold Mine project. Newmont plans to continue with regulatory applications in 2025 with the expectation that a sale will occur within the calendar year.
- Newmont has agreements with all affected First Nations on the project and is actively engaging with First Nations on regulatory application materials. A new owner of the project will be required to take on and uphold these agreements in the event of a sale.
- Newmont continues to explore the Coffee Gold property to expand its resources. Newmont has a Class 4 mining land use approval (LQ00552) for the Coffee property that expires in 2031.
- On November 23, 2023, Newmont submitted a water licence application to the Yukon Water Board.
- On November 27, 2023, Newmont Corporation submitted its quartz mining licence application for the Coffee Gold Mine project. The Mineral Resources Branch began reviewing the licence application, and will consult with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Selkirk First

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Coffee Gold Mine

Spring 2025

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Resources

Nation and White River First Nation. Authorizations for the proposed access road also include consultation with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.

Heap Leach Policy

- On July 31, 2024, Premier Pillai sent a letter to the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and committed to not license another new heap leach facility in the Yukon until the outcomes of an Independent Review Board can be incorporated as appropriate into licensing and enforcement policies and practices.
- Newmont is conducting a failure mode & effects analysis for the proposed heap leach facility. Failure modes and effects analysis (FMEA) is a step-by-step approach for identifying all possible failures in a design, a manufacturing or assembly process, or a product or service. It is a common process analysis tool. The purpose of the FMEA is to take actions to eliminate or reduce failures, starting with the highest-priority ones.
- The Government of Yukon's guidelines for Mine Waste Management Facilities continue to remain in effect. All hard rock mining applicants should adhere to the guidelines in planning, design, construction, operation, and closure of quartz mining mine waste management facilities in the Yukon.

Quartz Mine Licensing

- The Government of Yukon has modified its quartz mine licensing process until a thorough independent review of the heap leach failure at Eagle Gold is complete, and the resulting recommendations are considered and incorporated into licensing practices and policies, as appropriate.
- The Mineral Resources Branch will continue to review Coffee Gold's Quartz Mining Licence application but will not approve any heap leach related activities at this time.
- If requested by the affected First Nations and mutually agreed to, engagement can proceed with affected First Nations on heap leach-related components of Coffee Gold's Quartz Mine License application within their Traditional Territory.
- The Government of Yukon will engage with proponents on any voluntary and/or recommended review of their proposed heap leach facility (e.g. voluntary Failure Modes Effects Assessments, etc.)

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Coffee Gold Mine

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Resources

- The Quartz Mine Licence application underwent a Completeness Review (for adequacy). The Government of Yukon issued one information request in 2024. The company provided its responses in November 2024.
- The Government of Yukon anticipates starting the detailed review of the Quartz Mine Licence application in spring 2025.

Resource Roads Regulation

- Access management for resource industries has been a challenge for many years in the Yukon, because of a lack of regulatory tools to permit and manage resource roads.
- The *Resource Roads Regulation* was approved in late 2024 and came into effect January 27, 2025.
- The Coffee Project Northern Access Route will be regulated under the *Highways Act* (sections of public roads needing upgrades); *Land Use Regulation* (sections of public roads needing realignment); and the *Resource Roads Regulation* (new road sections).
- Newmont's land applications for portions of the Northern Access Route that were proposed to be leased will be reviewed for compliance with the *Resource Roads Regulation* and the Land Management branch will work with Newmont to transition these applications to Primary Permit Applications. Other regulatory applications for the Northern Access Route are not impacted by the approval of the *Resource Roads Regulation*.
- There are benefits to the Coffee Project from the *Resource Roads Regulation* in meeting the Yukon's *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* decision document terms such as assurances that new roads will not become public roads, ability to control access and mechanisms for reclamation.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

March 5, 2025

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: February 28, 2025
Last Updated:

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Spring 2025

Metallic Minerals

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Since the Court of Appeal's decision on April 9, 2024, Metallic Minerals has informed the Government of Yukon it has no plans to proceed with its LOTR project in the Beaver River area north of Keno City.
- Based on this information, the Government of Yukon has not re-started consultation with First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun on the decision document.
- We are waiting for Metallic Minerals to formally withdraw the project.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to implementing the Final and Self-government Agreements and to conducting meaningful consultation with Indigenous governments and groups.
- We continue to consult with First Nations on every mining project application that may impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the Metallic Minerals court case and implications for First Nations and project proponents.

Background:

- In 2020, Metallic Minerals applied for a Class 3 exploration permit for the LOTR project in the Beaver River area north of Keno City.
- The LOTR project consists of 52 claims located approximately 64 kilometres from

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Metallic Minerals

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Keno City and 103 kilometres from Mayo within the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND).

- The project proposal received a “proceed with terms and conditions” recommendation from the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.
- The Government of Yukon consulted FNNND on the project's potential impacts. FNNND expressed that the project should not proceed until the Beaver River Land Use Plan is complete.
- The Government of Yukon added several terms and conditions in response to FNNND’s concerns and issued a decision document in February 2021 to allow the project to proceed. In March 2022, FNNND filed a petition against the Government of Yukon’s issuance of the decision document in the Yukon Supreme Court.
- The petition references a 2018 intergovernmental agreement between the Government of Yukon and FNNND that contains a commitment to complete a sub-regional land use plan for the Beaver River watershed. (See BN #95)
- On January 31, 2023, the Supreme Court of Yukon ruled consultation with the FNNND to be inadequate and overturned the Government of Yukon’s decision document for the Metallic Minerals Project.
- The Government of Yukon filed an appeal with the Yukon Court of Appeal in March 2023. On April 9, 2024, the Yukon Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal and directed the Government of Yukon to consult the FNNND on the decision document again.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

January 29, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 20, 2025
Last Updated:

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Project Approval Timelines

#111
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Recommended response:

- We recognize industry's concerns about the timelines for regulatory approvals and are committed to making improvements to our processes where possible.
- Each year, the Mineral Resources Branch is responsible for carrying out consultations with affected First Nations on roughly 500 mineral projects and plans. [Most projects require consultation with multiple First Nations.](#)
- Complex projects requiring consultation with multiple First Nations may extend beyond statutory timelines to fully meet the government's duty to consult on Aboriginal and Treaty rights.
- The Government of Yukon must meet its duty to consult with affected First Nations and meaningful consultation with First Nations provides more certainty for industry at all stages of a project.
- [Many projects require working with other decision bodies under the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act. This includes First Nation decision bodies, and federal decision bodies, for example the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.](#)
- There will be an influx of project applications in the next three years due to expiring authorizations. We are working on solutions to ensure regulatory reviews are not delayed unnecessarily.

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Additional response:

- We are engaging with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board and the Yukon Water Board to improve our regulatory systems.
- We are also engaging with the Yukon Water Board as they are the delegated authority to act as the Chief of Placer Land Use and responsible for issuing Class 4 permits and water licences.
- We are resuming consultations with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun that were paused following the heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold mine.
- We will not license another heap leach facility until the Independent Review Board has completed its work. This will affect the Coffee Gold Mine project, which is currently in the Quartz Mine Licensing process. The Government of Yukon commits to working with Ross River Dena Council to determine how the Tu Łidlini Assessment process may integrate with existing assessment and regulatory consultation processes for projects in the Kaska Territory.
- The Yukon's mining and mineral exploration industry remains robust. The number of claims staked in 2024 was similar to that in 2023. The number of notifications, decision documents and permits issued is at a steady, high volume.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Industry may have questions on timelines for the issuance of permits.

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: March 5, 2025
Last Updated: April 8, 2025
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Project Approval Timelines

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Resources

Background:

- The Mineral Resources Branch is the Decision Body for most mining and exploration projects assessed under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* and is the regulator for exploration programs and major mines.
- Due to the permitting cycle of placer operations and the timeline for the original implementation of the *Yukon Environmental and Socioeconomic Assessment Act*, the number of projects moving through the assessment and regulatory system requiring consultation is expected to double for 2025. This occurrence arises on a ten-year cycle, i.e. 2015, 2025, 2035, etc.
- The Mineral Resources Branch administers and manages mineral tenure and provides direct support to claim holders and operators.
- The Yukon Water Board has delegated authority to act as the Chief of Placer Land Use and is the regulator for Class 4 placer projects. It is responsible for issuing Class 4 placer permits.
- The Klondike Placer Miner Association is calling on the Government of Yukon to grant temporary extensions for existing water licences. The Yukon Water Board is the delegated authority to act as the Chief of Placer Land Use and is responsible for issuing Class 4 permits as well as amending Class 4 permits. There is no mechanism within mineral legislation to amend placer or quartz permits that exceed 10 years without an environmental assessment.
- On occasion, project consultations take months to conclude. At times there are issues that warrant significant discussion around potential impacts on Aboriginal and Treaty rights and therefore, more consultation is required to resolve them.
- Due to overlapping Traditional Territories and projects that require additional consultation on project plans, the Mineral Resources Branch estimates over 600 consultations are required, on average, for 500 projects.

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Project Approval Timelines

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Resources

- The table on the next page includes the number of notifications, Decision Documents, and approvals that the Mineral Resources Branch has issued, by year, since 2019:

	Number issued per year						Avg. # of days to issue
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Placer Class 1 Notifications	126*	282	415	332	353	205	37
Quartz Class 1 Notifications	53*	130	128	82	96	76	54
Placer Class 3 and 4 – Decision Documents	68	55	50	62	39	57	61
Quartz Class 3 and 4 Decision Documents	15	20	19	16	6	4	108
Quartz Mining Land Use Approvals	14	19	17	12	8	7	61

* Class 1 exploration notifications were implemented after the *Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) vs. Yukon* court decision in spring 2020. Prior to this court decision, Class 1 notification was required only within the RRDC area and if projects overlapped with First Nation's Settlement Lands.

- On November 27, 2023, Newmont Corporation submitted its quartz mining licence application for the Coffee Gold Project. The Mineral Resources Branch began reviewing the licence application and will consult with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Selkirk First Nation and White River First Nation. Authorizations for the proposed access road also include consultation with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- The Government of Yukon has committed to not licensing another heap leach facility in the Yukon until the outcomes of the Independent Review Board for the Eagle Gold Mine heap leach failure are complete.
- Mineral Resources Branch's review of the quartz mining licence application for Coffee Gold Project is focused on non-heap leach component of the project while the Independent Review is underway.

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Project Approval Timelines

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Approved by:

Paul Moore

April 22, 2025

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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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.

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Mineral Sector Status and Supports

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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

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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

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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

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.

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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

Session Briefing Note

Security for Mineral Projects

Spring 2025Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon requires financial security for all quartz mines, most large quartz exploration projects and certain placer projects.
- Security for quartz mines is reviewed at least once every two years, and applicable quartz exploration projects are reviewed yearly. We also conduct a full review during applicable quartz licence amendments or renewals.
- Security is calculated based on the anticipated cost for the government of reclaiming and closing the site should it be necessary. The Government of Yukon currently holds \$202.1 million in financial security for quartz mines and mineral exploration projects.

Additional response:

- In consultation with Selkirk First Nation, we are implementing the reclamation and closure plan for the abandoned Minto Mine using the security we currently hold.
- The Minto Mine is the first time we have drawn on a surety bond to respond to an abandoned mine and implement reclamation and closure.
- Victoria Gold posted security to the Government of Yukon of \$104 million and \$55 million of these funds have been approved to be advanced as a loan to the receiver for remediation. (See BN # 1)

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Security for Mineral Projects

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions have been raised about the Yukon's financial security process and outcomes for major quartz mines. Those of particular interest are Minto Mine and Eagle Gold Mine. (See BN #23 & #1)

Background

Process Improvements

- Energy, Mines and Resources is exploring legislative options to ensure adequate security and reclamation and closure planning as part of developing new minerals legislation. (See BN #6)
- Energy, Mines and Resources published the updated financial guidelines for quartz mining licences in May 2024. These updates include more clarity and direction on the forms of security and the circumstances under which they are permissible.

Mine Reclamation and Closure

- The Government of Yukon reviews and approves a mine operator's security and reclamation and closure plan before issuing a quartz mining licence and on a regular basis afterwards.
- Every year, mine operators must produce a report on progressive reclamation, the results of monitoring programs and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Financial Security for Quartz Mines

- For quartz mining projects, the Government of Yukon holds approximately \$197 million in security. This includes \$1.7 million held for Brewery Creek, \$80,000 for Carmacks Copper, \$4.9 million held for Sä Dena Hes, \$11.3 million for Keno Hill Silver District, \$75.2 million for Minto Mine (original amount, currently being expended to support active closure and remediation) and \$103.7 million for Eagle Gold Mine.

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Security for Mineral Projects

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- Financial security for quartz mines is determined by both the Government of Yukon and the Yukon Water Board. The Yukon Water Board determines security requirements under the Yukon Waters Act, and the Government of Yukon determines security under the *Quartz Mining Act*.
- The Government of Yukon collects whichever security determination amount is higher between the Yukon Water Board and the Government of Yukon. The Government of Yukon is responsible for holding the financial security.

Financial Security for Placer Projects

- The Government of Yukon currently holds \$5.1 million in financial security for quartz exploration and placer projects.
- The Government of Yukon currently holds \$38,398 in financial security for placer projects.
- The Yukon Water Board can also require financial security for Class 4 placer mines.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

March 5, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended Response:

- The Yukon *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* Oversight Group is a joint effort between the Governments of Canada, Yukon, and Yukon First Nations to oversee the YESAA process and promote its ongoing improvement.
- It is a priority for the YESAA Oversight Group to seek efficiency and certainty of assessment processes under the Yukon *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* and support the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's ability to fulfil their legislated responsibilities.
- The Oversight Group is making progress on an amendment to the Yukon *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.
- This amendment would provide a mechanism in which existing projects requiring amendments or renewals of their authorizations could be exempted from a new assessment if certain criteria are met and affected First Nations consent.
- The Oversight Group continues to work with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board to identify and advance other improvements to the YESAA process and is supportive of YESAB's efforts to address their ongoing capacity challenges

Additional Response:

- The Oversight Group committed to undertake a review of the development assessment process set out in YESAA by 2027, as outlined in their Terms of Reference.
- The Oversight Group will define the scope and approach for this review.

Context - this may be an issue because:

- Industry representatives are monitoring progress on the proposed amendment to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA).
- On May 5, 2024, the Yukon Chamber of Mines sent a letter to the Chair of the Oversight Group outlining concerns with YESAB's notice, on YESAB's current organizational challenges and anticipated impacts on assessment timelines.
- YESAB continues to indicate organizational challenges to meet rules-based timelines.

Background:

- The Oversight Group was established because of the YESAA Reset Memorandum of Understanding ("Reset MOU"), signed in November 2017.
- The Oversight Group is composed of representatives from the Government of Canada, the Government of Yukon (YG) and the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN).
- A representative from the Executive Council Office (ECO) represents YG.
- In 2018, the Oversight Group adopted joint priorities which focus on three main areas:
 - revitalizing the YESAA Forum;
 - improvements to consultation and engagement; and
 - policy development and targeted technical working groups.
- YG and CYFN sent a joint letter to the federal Minister of Northern Affairs in December 2020 requesting a focused review of the YESAA.
- In February 2021, the Minister of Northern Affairs indicated their commitment to working with members of the Oversight Group on amendments and renewals.
- The purpose of the review will be to propose amendments to address the need for an assessment when a project's authorization is amended or renewed.
- Yukon First Nations maintain that any decisions concerning determining the need for an assessment of project amendments and renewals within First Nations' traditional territories will require the agreement of that First Nation. YG supports their position.
- The Technical Working Group, supporting the Oversight Group, held engagement workshops with industry, First Nations, and other organizations on the targeted YESAA amendment to address the assessment of amendments and renewals on October 25 and November 16, 2022.

- The engagement period closed December 2, 2022. A What We Heard report was developed and shared with the Oversight Group.
- In fall 2023, the Technical Working Group completed a guidance document that would address concerns identified during engagement and recommended to the Oversight Group a small revision to the proposed amendment.
- CYFN passed a resolution on January 16, 2024, that supports moving forward with the targeted amendment. At that point, Canada undertook a 45-day targeted engagement with First Nations on the proposed approach to inform development of Canada's Memorandum to Cabinet.
- The Government of Canada confirmed that the targeted amendment would be advanced through a legislative process in the federal fall economic statement in December 2024. The federal parliament prorogation until March 24, 2025, will likely affect the targeted amendment schedule, making it difficult to predict a timeline.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2025 02 05

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office_____
Date

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office**Topic:** Current Yukon Water Board ("Board") licence applications of note.

QUARTZ UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
BMC – Kudz Ze Kayah	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On December 6, 2024, the Yukon Court of Appeal set aside the Decision Document pending further consultation.The Type A water licence application went to public comment in January 2023 with a deadline for interventions of May 5, 2023.BMC responded to interventions and submitted updated documents to the Board on July 15, 2024.The Board cannot continue its process in the absence of a Decision Document allowing the project to proceed.
Goldcorp Kaminak Ltd.- Coffee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The company submitted a Type A water licence application in November 2023.Adequacy review of the application is underway with technical review supported by external consultants.
Alexco Keno Hill Mining Corp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The company has a Type A Water Licence and pursuant to its water licence, submitted an updated Reclamation and Closure Plan (RCP) and security costing on November 27, 2023The Board is reviewing the RCP and security costing with the support of external technical consultants.

CHAPTER 14 WATER USE DISPUTE	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In February 2023, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) submitted a water-use dispute application under the Waters Act and Chapter 14 of the First Nation Final Agreement regarding the water licence at the Mt. Nansen mine site.The Parties to the Chapter 14 dispute are the LSCFN, Government of Canada, Government of Yukon and Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership (licensee).

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical and compensation review is supported by external consultants.• A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for Q2 2025.
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HYDRO UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Yukon Energy Corporation – Whitehorse Rapids	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yukon Energy Corporation's (YEC) current Type A water licence expires May 31, 2025.• A water licence application was submitted to the Board on October 31, 2024.• The application is being reviewed for adequacy with the support of external technical consultants.• A Decision Document allowing the project to proceed has not yet been issued.
Yukon Energy Corp. – Aishihik - Five-Year Monitoring & Adaptive Management Plan (MAMP) – Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• YEC has a Type A licence for the Aishihik Generating Station.• The Board's review of the Five-Year Monitoring & Adaptive Management Plan (MAMP) is currently underway.• Pursuant to the water licence, YEC submitted a long-term MAMP on December 31, 2024.

MUNICIPAL UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Town of Watson Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Town of Watson Lake's current water Type A water licence for the municipal water use and deposit of waste expires January 24, 2025.• The Town of Watson Lake submitted an application to the Board on September 11, 2024.• The application is being reviewed for adequacy.

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office

Statistics - Water Licence Applications 2014 to date			
Year	Type B	Type A	Total
2014	120	4	124
2015	133	2	135
2016	123	8	131
2017	135	7	142
2018	121	5	126
2019	102	7	109
2020	116	5	121
2021	93	6	99
2022	108	3	111
2023	88	4	92
2024	105	2	107

Statistics do not include plans submitted for review and approval by the Board.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2025 02 05

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office_____
Date

Session Briefing Note

Compensation for Mineral Claims

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Energy, Mines and Resources works with mineral claim holders to consider compensation requests on a case-by-case basis.
- In the Peel Region's conservation areas, eligible claim holders can relinquish their mineral claims in exchange for non-monetary benefits, such as relief from annual requirements to work or pay to maintain mineral claims in other regions of the territory.
- The relinquishment process is voluntary for claim holders.
- The Steering Committee developing new minerals legislation is considering how best to incorporate clear and fair compensation for claims impacted by changes in allowable land use. (See BN #6)

Additional response:

- As regional land use planning advances, there will be more clarity on where development is and is not permitted, and to what degree.
- Mineral activities in municipalities, and areas with new or approved land use plans, must comply with all legislation, land use plans and other requirements for that area.
- We have developed informational materials to help municipalities manage exploration and mining in their communities; these are available on yukon.ca.

Session Briefing Note

Compensation for Mineral Claims

Spring 2025
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Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The mining and exploration sector is interested in compensation for mineral claim holders when claims are affected by land use planning, regulatory decisions, changes to municipal boundaries or other initiatives.
 - There are ongoing requests from claim holders for compensation in some areas.
-

Background:

- In the past, Energy, Mines and Resources has received compensation requests from claim holders who feel the regulatory process has slowed or denied their ability to work their claims.
- At times, non-monetary compensation has been provided for mineral claims affected by federally and territorially imposed land use changes.
- The Mineral Resources Branch is currently working with claim holders in conservation areas of the Peel Watershed Planning Region to negotiate non-monetary compensation in exchange for relinquishing their claims. (See BN #98)
- No expropriations of placer or quartz mining claims have resulted from implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan and no claims have been expropriated to date in the Yukon.

Claims within Municipalities

- The Government of Yukon recently renewed a quartz mineral staking prohibition order for the municipal boundary of the City of Dawson until December 2028. A similar quartz mineral staking prohibition order is in place until July 2027 for most of the City of Whitehorse in order to align with the Official Community Plan.
- The *Placer Mining Act* prohibits staking mineral claims within municipal boundaries and the land immediately surrounding a dwelling. Due to the expansion of the municipal boundaries, there are existing placer claims within some municipal boundaries, notably the City of Dawson.

Session Briefing Note

Compensation for Mineral Claims

Spring 2025Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Department of Community Services is working with the City of Dawson to plan for land development. In certain areas, conflicts have arisen due to active placer claims in future development areas.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

January 28, 2025

Deputy Minister_____
Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Session Briefing Note

Placer Mining in Wetlands

#117
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- In 2023, we released A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands to increase knowledge about wetlands and to guide how we protect and make decisions for wetland use and conservation.
- We are working in partnership with First Nations, industry and environmental non-government organizations to implement the policy.
- The interim approach for placer mining in the Indian River remains in place to protect the most sensitive wetland types (all bogs and 40 per cent of fens); the interim approach also requires a wetland protection and reclamation plan for placer mines.

Additional response:

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Department of Environment are working together on this initiative, each leading several actions.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is creating guidance for wetland reclamation for placer mining and how to manage the loss or reduction of wetland benefits.
- The Department of Environment is advancing territory-wide wetland mapping, developing wetland classification and mapping standards, and creating guidance for nominating and reviewing Wetlands of Special Importance.
- The Yukon Water Board has published draft wetland information

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Placer Mining in Wetlands

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guidelines for water licence applications, which are available online.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Implementation of A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands and the ongoing management of wetlands is of interest to Yukoners, First Nations, environmental groups, and the mining industry.

Background:

- Development of the wetlands stewardship policy began in late 2017. The Government of Yukon developed the policy through an inclusive process with Indigenous governments and groups, boards and councils, municipal and federal governments, industry representatives and non-government organizations.
- A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands was released in January 2023. It contains 16 implementation actions with near-term, mid-term and long-term implementation targets over the next 10 years.
- The Government of Yukon previously completed regional-scale wetland mapping for the Peel Watershed planning region and more detailed mapping in the Beaver River, Mayo/McQuesten and Indian River watersheds.
- The Department of Environment is supporting the Wildlife Conservation Society Canada to understand wetland soil carbon and emissions from land use changes, such as placer mining.
- The Department of Environment supported Ducks Unlimited Canada to develop an accessible and user-friendly field guide to identify wetlands. This document is now available through Ducks Unlimited Canada.
- The Yukon Water Board has drafted wetland information guidelines for placer mining applications based on the feedback from the board's public interest hearing on placer mining in wetlands held in 2020.

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Placer Mining in Wetlands

#117
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 28, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Minerals Advisory Board

Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Minerals Advisory Board produces an annual report to provide recommendations to the Minister on increasing mineral exploration and development, attracting investment, and reducing constraints on mineral development.
- The 2023 Annual Report contains four important recommendations to which we are reviewing, responding and making progress on. The 2024 report is anticipated later this spring.
- We greatly appreciate the insights and perspectives from the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board.

Additional response (to each of the four recommendations from 2023 YMAB report):

- We are ensuring Yukon's electrical grid is predominantly renewable by investing in projects like the Yukon – British Columbia Grid Intertie Project.
- Ongoing initiatives such as working with Yukon First Nations on the Yukon Resource Gateway Program are opportunities to address the annual report's recommendation on infrastructure and road improvement. (See BN #128)
- Developing new minerals legislation is a key action to address the annual report's recommendations on ensuring resource revenues and benefits stay in the territory and on regulatory improvement. (See BN #6)

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Yukon Minerals Advisory Board

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- Increased engagements with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board and the Yukon Water Board will further support making improvements to our regulatory processes.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions raised on how the Yukon government is addressing the Board's 2023 Annual Report four key recommendations.

2023 Annual Report:

- The Board's 2023 report attributes gaps in infrastructure and the regulatory environment as major contributors to the challenges the industry faces in operating in the territory and makes four recommendations to the Minister:
 - (1) **Expand Yukon with power generation and distribution:** increase availability of low cost and low greenhouse gas emitting electricity for Yukoners. (See BN #36)
 - (2) **Roads and aerodromes, then resources:** road improvements and aerodrome operations not only help access mineral resources but also provide broader benefit to Yukoners by reducing costs such as food, fuel and maintenance.
 - (3) **Yukon's revenues for Yukon's infrastructure:** allow Yukoners to access the benefits of their resources; resource revenues must stay in the territory.
 - (4) **Permitting infrastructure improvement:** major infrastructure improvement is an urgent generational challenge. The regulatory environment needs to respond.

Background:

- The Yukon Minerals Advisory Board (YMAB) was created under the Economic Development Act by a 1999 Ministerial Order (MO 1999/06).
- The Board provides advice and makes recommendations on measures to:
 - increase potential for mineral exploration and development in the territory;
 - attract capital for exploration and development of new mining projects;

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- improve viability of producing mines; and
- ensure mines can be developed feasibly and in a timely fashion.
- The Board also makes recommendations regarding outreach to First Nations to explore opportunities and benefits of mineral exploration and development in the territory.
- The Board is made up of 12 member positions, each with two-year terms, who are appointed by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.
- The Board currently has 10 out of 12 positions filled.
- The Board is required to submit an annual report of activities by May 1 that, if requested by the Minister, can include a report on the board's recommendations from the previous year.
- Outcrop Communications Limited has been contracted (\$21,750 to March 30, 2025) to provide ongoing administrative support for the Board.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

January 28, 2025

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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Mactung/Fireweed Metals

#119
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Recommended response:

- On December 13, 2024, Fireweed Metals announced that they received USD\$15.8 million (~\$22.5 million Canadian) funding from the United States Department of Defense to advance their Mactung project.
- In addition to U.S. funding, the company also received \$12.9 million from the Government of Canada's Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund to plan for road and power infrastructure to advance critical minerals projects at Macmillan Pass.

Additional response:

- Canada has committed up to \$40 million to look into the feasibility of connecting the Yukon to British Columbia's electrical grid. This connection would increase access to renewable energy for resource development and create opportunities for the Yukon to export power.
- Fireweed has proposed a North Canol Infrastructure Improvement Project.
- The Government of Yukon is continuing to invest in the Yukon Resource Gateway Program to upgrade road access to areas with high mineral potential.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Fireweed Metals owns the Mactung project, accessed by the North Canol road, and power options will be a significant consideration in advancing that project.

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- Initial reporting by local media on US Department of Defense's funding to Fireweed Metals portrayed tungsten as primarily used for military purposes. On December 17, the CBC updated the article to include more context on the wide-ranging use of tungsten, including for industrial products like drill bits and machine parts.

Background:

Quartz Exploration Projects

- The Nidd Project (LQ00575) is located in the Traditional Territories of the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND) and the asserted Traditional Territory of the Kaska Nations.
- The Class 3 mining land use approval for that project expires on December 12, 2025.
- The company initially submitted a Class 4 quartz exploration program. During assessment, FNNND raised access concerns, specifically over the proposal to develop 15 kilometres of new roads and upgrade the existing road in the upper Hess River Watershed.
- First Nations raised concerns over the impacts of new linear development on wildlife populations, as well as authorizing activities without land use planning.
- The company withdrew the application and submitted a smaller, helicopter-supported Class 3 quartz program without new roads over three years only.
- The Tom and Jason deposits (LQ00490b) are also within the asserted Traditional Territory of the Kaska Nations and expires October 15, 2028. The Yukon government currently holds \$39,596 in security.
- The company applied for an amendment including a new camp location and to modify the fuel storage type and size. The amendment was approved on March 19, 2024.

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- The amendment included a Reclamation and Closure Plan and Cost Estimate requirement. Mineral Resources Branch is currently working with Fireweed Metals to finalize these requirements.

Proposed Mactung Mine

- Mactung is in the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun and the asserted Traditional Territories of the Kaska Nations. The Class 3 mining lands approval (LQ00521) expires January 15, 2030.
- Fireweed purchased the property from the Government of Northwest Territories and the Class 3 approval was transferred to the new owner on May 4, 2023.
- An Executive Committee screening for the Mactung mining project was completed by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board in 2014. The Decision Document for this project identified several information and additional planning requirements in advance of regulatory applications.
- Additional information was not collected and regulatory applications for the mining project were not filed following the completion of the assessment.
- The 2014 assessment and associated Decision Document do not expire and are valid documents for the advancement of the mining project. Fireweed will be required to meet or exceed expectations in the assessment and cannot exceed the established scope.
- Fireweed is in the process of reviewing the available information and determining whether to proceed with the project as assessed or advance a new project beginning with an environmental assessment.
- The Government of Yukon has met with Fireweed to discuss the assessment and regulatory requirements and expectations. Fireweed has also discussed these matters with affected First Nations.
- Fireweed has not come to a final determination on the assessment and regulatory path forward for the mining project.

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Mactung/Fireweed Metals

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Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

February 3, 2025

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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Gladiator Metals

#120
Spring 2025
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to ensuring that resource development is done responsibly, and that any proposed mineral development project adheres to our regulatory framework.
- On February 24, 2025, Gladiator Metals was approved for a Class 1 authorization for one year to conduct exploratory work, including drilling, on its claims in the Whitehorse Copper District in four areas:
 - Cowley Creek (behind Mary Lake subdivision);
 - Along the Copper Haul Road north of Sima;
 - Near McLean Lake Road and;
 - Northwest of the Whitehorse Waste Management Facility.
- We consulted with Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council on the Class 1 application.
- The Class 1 contains terms that:
 - Restrict activity in some areas at some times for protection of vulnerable wildlife;
 - Require inspections prior to undertaking work;
 - Require Heritage Resources Assessments prior to work;
 - Require reclamation of areas disturbed during normal exploration operations.
- We will continue to monitor Gladiator Metals closely to ensure they adhere to our regulatory framework and the conditions of their Class 1 authorization.

Additional response:

- Most of the claims included in the Cowley claim block were staked decades ago, but Gladiator has staked new claims in this area that are outside of the City of Whitehorse staking prohibition boundary.
- Gladiator has staked 55 additional claims in the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) planning area outside of the City of Whitehorse municipal boundary. These claims are subject to mineral development and environmental laws, official community plans, local area plans and zoning regulations.
- Should the company submit a Class 1 application in the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) area, this will be reviewed, assessed for potential environmental impacts, and consulted on with affected First Nations before any project is approved.

Additional response (if asked about radon):

- We have heard some residents raise concerns that mining exploration could increase the risk of radon in groundwater.
- Radon is sometimes present in groundwater in the area, but core drilling for exploration is unlikely to alter groundwater quality.
- The Government of Yukon is collaborating with the University of Saskatchewan, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the City of Whitehorse on a three-year project funded by Natural Resources Canada to examine groundwater quality and hazards in Whitehorse and better understand the risks of radon in the groundwater.

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Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is significant public interest in Gladiator Metals' exploration program given the locations of these activities and the recent court case.
- The Fish Lake Steering Committee and local residents have raised concerns about Gladiator Metal's staking of 55 new quartz claims that were registered on May 21, 2024, in the Fish Lake planning area.

Background:

- On May 11, 2023, the Mineral Resources Branch received a complaint about the Class 1 activities near the Cowley Creek site, and requested the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch inspect the site. A Natural Resource Officer inspected the site and identified numerous violations.
- The company was convicted of six offences for unauthorized activities. On August 30, 2023, the company was fined \$38,000, plus a \$5,700 victim fine surcharge.
- On November 14, 2023, Gladiator Metals received a new authorization to conduct Class 1 quartz exploration near the former Whitehorse Copper property. The site lies along the Copper Haul Road, north of the Mt. Sima Road, not near residential subdivisions. Exploration work commenced in early January 2024. The Class 1 authorization was amended to include claims in the Cowley Creek area and remediation was completed prior to November 13, 2024.
- On January 18, 2024, a Natural Resource Officer collaborated with bylaw officers from the City of Whitehorse and company representatives to inspect the site. No concerns were noted at the time.
- Due to the overlap with the City of Whitehorse municipal boundaries, the company requires development permits from the city to proceed with work.
- Natural Resource Officers regularly inspect the Class 1 activities to ensure the company is complying with its authorization conditions. An inspection conducted on July 10, 2024, identified several reclamation issues that required attention.
- An inspection on August 13, 2024, confirmed that the previously outstanding reclamation issues had been corrected and no further issues were noted.

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- Gladiator’s proposed exploration work along the Copper Haul Road corridor is within a block of 586 claims and 7 crown grants between west of the Mary Lake subdivision to northwest of the Whitehorse landfill.
- On May 21, 2024, Gladiator Metals registered 55 new quartz claims in the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) land planning area.
- The Class 1 issued in February 2025 allows for drilling, clearing, line cutting, and use of existing roads.
- The Class 1 contains terms that:
 - Restrict activity in some areas at some times for protection of vulnerable wildlife, for example waiting for caribou to move of their own accord out of an area before proceeding.
 - Require inspections prior to undertaking work.
 - Require Heritage Resources Assessments prior to work.
 - Require reclamation of areas disturbed during normal exploration operations.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

March 6, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

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Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

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Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

- In 2020 and 2022, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources led a targeted stakeholder engagement to better understand issues with mineral staking and development within the boundaries of Yukon municipalities and communities.
- Limited responses were received so no What We Heard was published. [Instead, the feedback was used to develop “Tools for Managing Mining in Yukon Municipalities,” which is available on Yukon.ca. This document informs municipalities of existing tools to manage mining within their boundaries.](#)
- [In the fall of 2024, Community Services used the tools document to onboard new community and municipal councils. Furthermore, Energy, Mines and Resources staff presented the tools document to City of Whitehorse and the City of Dawson staff and answered any questions.](#)
- Although there are pre-existing placer claims within some municipalities, the *Placer Mining Act* does not allow new placer claim staking within any of Yukon’s eight incorporated municipalities, including Dawson and Whitehorse.
- In summer 2022, the Government of Yukon extended a prohibition of entry order for the City of Whitehorse to July 2027, restricting quartz mineral staking within

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Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

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most areas. We made this decision at the request of the City of Whitehorse and in alignment with the City's Official Community Plan (Whitehorse 2040).

- In December 2023, the Government of Yukon renewed the prohibition of entry order within the City of Dawson's municipal limits to December 2028. We made this decision in partnership with the City of Dawson and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government.
- The City of Dawson has several active claims and mining operations that may conflict with community development interests. The municipality is doing its best to navigate these claims and operations, and the Government of Yukon is providing support as required.
- Gladiator Metals Ltd. has several projects in and near the City of Whitehorse. On February 24, 2025, they were approved for a Class 1 authorization for one year to conduct exploratory work, including drilling, on four sites in the Whitehorse Copper District. They have since submitted to YESAB for Class 3 exploration review. (See BN #120)
- Three of the sites are within the municipal boundary, while one site is on land zoned Hinterland in the Mt Lorne Development Area. The Hinterland zone permits mineral exploration.
- Gladiator Metals' earlier exploration work in the Cowley Creek area attracted complaints and media attention. As a result of an investigation, the company was fined over \$43,000 in August 2023 for violating conditions of a Class 1 operation.
- Gladiator Metals recently staked claims near Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) and Franklin Lake, but has not submitted applications for mineral exploration work. The *Whitehorse Periphery Development Area Regulation* (2013) does not enable mining development in this area.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

April 30, 2025

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 7, 2025
Last Updated: April 28, 2025

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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*

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Miners Lien Act

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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

Session Briefing Note**Yukon Wetland
Stewardship Policy**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is making significant progress on several initiatives to implement the wetland stewardship policy.
- All projects undergoing environmental assessment by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) are reviewed for potential impacts to wetlands.
- We are working to improve guidance for operators and project proponents to identify and mitigate potential impacts to wetlands during the environmental assessment stage.
- The Government of Yukon is working to complete territory-wide wetland mapping. To date, the Department of Environment has mapped around one third of the Yukon's wetlands.
- In 2024-25, we completed extensive field data collection in the central Yukon and are working with our Environment and Climate Change Canada partners to develop wetland mapping for this region.
- The territory-wide wetland map will be made available online to the public once it has been completed.
- We have developed a draft guidance document for the nomination and evaluation of Wetlands of Special Importance. This draft guidance document is currently being reviewed by our management partners. Subject to that review, we are aiming to have this document finalized in 2025.

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Stewardship Policy**Environment and
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- Developing the guidance document and sharing them with Indigenous governments and groups, partner boards, and councils is identified as a near-term implementation action in the Wetland Stewardship Policy.
- Once this guidance is finalized, we can begin the first intake of Wetlands of Special Importance nominations.
- We have also drafted Yukon-specific wetland classification standards. These standards will establish a common foundation for all future work relating to wetlands in the territory. This document is currently being reviewed by our management partners.

Additional response:

- The Department of Environment also supported Ducks Unlimited Canada to develop an accessible and user-friendly field guide to identify wetlands. This document is now available through Ducks Unlimited Canada.
- We are supporting a new research effort led by the Wildlife Conservation Society Canada that looks at how carbon is stored and released in Yukon wetlands and how it may be impacted by industrial activities. This includes quantifying the effects of placer mining and reclamation activities on peatland greenhouse gas emissions and removals in the Yukon.
- You can now find information about Yukon wetlands, how the policy is being implemented, and guidance for industry on Yukon.ca. We are also developing a new public-facing information hub for wetlands maps and related spatial information.

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Stewardship Policy**Environment and
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Third response:

- We acknowledge the importance of responding to new information as we continue to improve our understanding of the Yukon's wetlands through scientific, traditional and local knowledge.
- We will continue to engage with other governments, departments, agencies, regulatory bodies, and external partners to discuss specific aspects of wetland stewardship policy implementation.
- We remain committed to addressing wetland stewardship and protection within land use planning discussions and project reviews.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Implementation of the Wetlands Policy and the ongoing management of wetlands is of significant interest to Yukoners.

Background:

- On January 10, 2023, we released A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands. The goal of the policy is to ensure the benefits of Yukon's wetlands are sustained.
- The Government of Yukon committed \$1.68 million over two fiscal years (2023-24 to 2024-25) for the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources to begin jointly implementing the wetland stewardship policy.
- In January 2023, the Government of Yukon formed an internal working group to advance and coordinate the implementation of the wetland stewardship policy.
- The working group is composed of members of Environment, Energy, Mines and Resources, Executive Council Office, and Highways and Public Works.
- The group meets monthly to advance various aspects of policy implementation and ensure a whole-of-government approach to policy implementation.

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- Departmental staff are working with Environment and Climate Change Canada on a 3-year funding agreement to advance territory wide wetland mapping.
- See [Appendix A](#) for updates on implementation status.

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

Deputy Minister, Environment

March 20, 2025

Date approved

Paul Moore

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resource

March 20, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Wetland Stewardship Policy

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Appendix A: Actions within the wetland stewardship policy			
Policy Actions (bold = near-term priorities)	Timeline * priority adjusted	Lead	Status update Not Started Initiated Underway Near_Complete
1. Develop guidance for the evaluation of wetland benefits in the Yukon	Long-term	ENV	We have completed some initial work comparing processes in other jurisdictions.
2. Update and finalize a Yukon wetland classification system	Near-term	ENV	Targeted engagement underway (February to April 17 th , 2025).
3. Develop an accessible and easy to use guide to identifying Yukon's wetlands for proponents and the public	Mid-term	External	We supported Ducks Unlimited Canada in developing an accessible field guide for public use, aligned with our classification system (action 2). Ducks Unlimited Canada released this field guide in July 2024.
4. Develop wetland mapping standards for regional, local, and project specific mapping applications	Near-term	ENV	We are continuing to develop a draft wetland mapping standards document. Following internal government review, we will circulate the draft to management partners and interested stakeholders for review.
5. Create a broad scale territory-wide wetland inventory	Near-term	ENV	<p>We have now completed approximately 81,000 km² of broad scale wetland mapping.</p> <p>We continue to work on development of a Yukon-wide wetland map. We completed fieldwork and working to map a further 62,000 km² within the Yukon Plateau-North and Selwyn Mountains ecoregions. Results from this data collection and production of a predictive wetland map for this area are anticipated in summer of 2025.</p>

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			Next steps: We will continue collection of data for the Liard Hylands and Southern Lakes ecoregions in summer of 2025.
6. Support local scale wetland mapping, where needed	Near-term*	ENV	We have partnered with EMR's Forest Management Branch, to collect stereo (3D) aerial imagery for the Yukon Plateau region.
7. Promote northern wetland research	Near-term*	EMR/ENV	Environment is supporting a three-year research project that began in summer 2024, led by the Wildlife Conservation Society, with additional funding support from Environment and Climate Change Canada.
8. Promote public awareness of wetlands	Long-term	ENV	We anticipate that the release of the Wetlands of Special Importance Guide and the Yukon Wetland Classification Standards will provide some awareness, as will the future launch of the wetlands information hub at Yukon.ca and the first designations of wetlands of Special Importance. Longer-term public information actions are not yet planned.
9. Develop guidance for the application and use of the mitigation hierarchy	Near-term	EMR/ENV	EMR is leading the development of guidance for the application and use of the mitigation hierarchy and the development of wetland reclamation plans. ENV is continuing to work with regulatory agencies, particularly related to mining activity, to address wetland impacts during project assessment and regulatory approvals.
10. Update or develop proponent guidance to be used when submitting wetland impact mitigation information	Near-term	EMR	Plans are in place to develop proponent guidance on how to communicate impact mitigation plans.

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11. Update or develop Standard Operating Procedures / Preferred Management Practices for different activities impacting wetlands	Long-term	EMR	EMR has developed standard terms and conditions for Class 1 mining activities. These are now being applied at the regulatory stage. EMR will review the effectiveness of these standard terms and revise as necessary. EMR has also developed draft standard terms and conditions for higher impact mining activities that will be applied at the regulatory stage once finalized.
12. Update or develop general wetland reclamation guidelines, and, where required, sector specific guidelines	Near-term*	EMR	EMR continues to apply the Ruby Creek reclamation plan guidelines for placer activities in the Indian River area. Reclamation plans are not currently required outside of this area however wetland areas must be reclaimed to these standards.
13. Develop guidance for offsetting wetland impacts	Long-term	ENV/EMR	A long-term objective that will be explored after near-term and midterm priorities have been advanced.
14. Develop specific and measurable guidance for the interpretation and application of Wetland of Special Importance nomination criteria	Near-term	ENV	We have completed a draft implementation document: <i>Wetlands of Special Importance: Nomination and Evaluation</i> . Targeted engagement underway (February to April 17 th , 2025).
15. Establish a process for legal designation of Wetlands of Special Importance (e.g., through existing legislation such as application of Wilderness Management Areas under the <i>Environment Act</i>).	Mid-term*	ENV	The Department of Environment is evaluating how existing legislative and policy tools can be applied to Wetlands of Special Importance.
16. Create a publicly accessible catalogue of	Mid-term	ENV	In advance of the first call for Wetlands of Special Importance (WSI), we are developing the tools and systems to support a public

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Wetlands of Special Importance.			catalogue. This will be available on the wetland hub at Yukon.ca, once complete.
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Session Briefing Note

Collaborative Stewardship

#125
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Since 2020, we have been advancing the Collaborative Stewardship Initiative with Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Selkirk First Nation and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- This year, the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch continued to work with our First Nations partners with a focus on water quality monitoring.
- We value working together with Yukon First Nations to enhance environmental stewardship, information sharing and monitoring across the Yukon.

Additional response:

- In summer 2024, the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch facilitated training sessions with Selkirk First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations on water quality monitoring.
- We supported Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in-led water sampling by providing water monitoring equipment and training.
- Staff from Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections also attended the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Science and Technology Camp and Moosehide gathering in July 2024.

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Collaborative Stewardship

#125
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Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukon First Nations have expressed interest in participating in joint compliance monitoring and inspection efforts under the Yukon's natural resource legislation.

Background:

- The Collaborative Stewardship Initiative is an effort to develop a new approach to how First Nation governments and EMR's Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections (CMI) branch can work together, learn from one another, and increase compliance monitoring capacity across Yukon on both settlement lands and crown land.
- This initiative in its current state is a partnership between CMI and 4 Yukon First Nations: Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Selkirk First Nation and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, although we employ a similar approach to collaboration with First Nations throughout the Territory.
- The Collaborative Stewardship Initiative is in its fifth year. Activities focus on inspection processes and procedures, information-sharing, water quality monitoring, cross-training and joint fieldwork.
- The success of the Collaborative Stewardship Initiative has resulted in additional interest in participation from other Yukon First Nations such as Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, as we are working with them in a similar capacity.
- The initiative does not cover investigations, enforcement, or reciprocal legal action (i.e., prosecution) under either Yukon or Yukon First Nations laws, nor does it involve wildlife management or harvesting issues.
- Through the work with our Yukon First Nations partners, we believe that the initiative could expand in four areas:
 - Additional participation;
 - Knowledge and skill transfer related to compliance promotion;

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 7, 2025
Last Updated:

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Session Briefing Note

Collaborative Stewardship

#125
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Training opportunities for Yukon First Nations; and
- Yukon First Nations-led, community-based water quality monitoring.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

February 3, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

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TAB 26 ECO/EMR #126**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2025****Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
Resources**Recommended response:**

- Our government has continued the mineral staking prohibition within the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon to allow time to address the court declarations made in the Ross River Dena Council and Kaska Dena Council mining cases.
- We also instituted a mineral staking prohibition for the Áashú (a-shoo) Lands and surrounding area in the asserted traditional territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation to support our ongoing discussions.
- We are working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to identify and protect from staking areas of cultural or environmental significance in their Traditional Territory.
- Together with First Nations we are developing new mineral legislation and in that process are considering many of the issues raised in the court cases. (See EMR #6)

Additional response:If asked about the Ross River Area:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River Area was initiated on March 27, 2013, and is in place until April 30, 2026. This is intended to allow time to advance consultation with the Ross River Dena Council and the other Kaska First Nations on how best to address the court declarations regarding mineral staking, exploration and development.
- Discussions on the development of new mineral legislation will create the

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in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
Resources

foundation to address the issues covered by the court declarations, after which we will be able to re-assess the need for the mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River area and in other areas in the Yukon.

- These important discussions about Yukon's mining legislation are ongoing. On behalf of the Yukon government, I would like to extend my thanks to the representatives from Ross River Dena Council and all our First Nations partners for their valuable input to date.

If asked about the southern Yukon portion of the Kaska asserted traditional territory:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the southern portion of the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon was initiated on February 1, 2017, and is in place until April 30, 2026.
- Liard First Nation is actively participating in the work to develop new mineral legislation. On behalf of the Yukon government, I would like to extend my thanks to the representatives from Liard First Nation and all our First Nations partners for their valuable input to date.

If asked about the Áashú Lands:

- We are advancing discussions with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation on several matters including the mineral declarations, consultation, and their land interests in the Yukon.
- To support these discussions, our government withdrew land associated with the former Áashú Village site from land disposition and mineral

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in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
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staking on March 28, 2019. This withdrawal is in place until April 30, 2026.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Mineral staking prohibitions in asserted traditional territories remain a focus of discussions with affected First Nations and are of interest to other First Nations, industry and stakeholders.
 - The Official Opposition raised the staking prohibitions in the Legislative Assembly on March 25, 2024. The mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska asserted traditional territory were extended for two years in April 2024 and the mineral staking prohibition for the Áashú Lands was extended for 16 months in December 2024.
-

Background:

- In 2012, the Yukon Court of Appeal made two declarations with respect to the *Ross River Dena Council v. Yukon* (2012 YKCA 14) mining case: (1) the Yukon government (YG) has a duty to consult with Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) in determining whether mineral rights on Crown lands within the Ross River Area are to be made available to third parties under the provisions of the *Quartz Mining Act*; and, (2) YG has a duty to notify and, where appropriate, consult with and accommodate RRDC before allowing any mineral exploration activities to take place within the Ross River Area.
 - In 2013, YG took steps to comply with the second declaration by amending the *Quartz Mining Act* and *Placer Mining Act* to implement a new regime for Class 1 mining activities.
 - In 2014, both the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) and Kaska Dena Council (KDC) started court proceedings seeking the same mineral declarations granted in the Ross River Area for their respective asserted traditional territories in the Yukon. The declarations were granted by consent.
 - The three mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska and TRTFN asserted traditional territories cover approximately 23 per cent of the Yukon.
 - Additional staking prohibitions are in place for reasons such as land use planning, to create parks and protected areas, or to disallow staking within municipal boundaries.
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in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
Resources

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- About 53 per cent of the total area of the Yukon is currently under a prohibition.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

February 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office_____
Date approved

Sierra van der Meer

February 4, 2025

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding

Energy, Mines and
Resources**Recommended response:**

- We are committed to collaborative and sustainable resource management in the best interests of Yukoners.
- In 2019, the Government of Yukon signed the North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- Through the Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties committed to collaborate to review decision-making processes and tools under the *Oil and Gas Act*.
- We are completing this work through the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum and Working Group established under the Memorandum of Understanding, which includes all signatories.

Additional response:

- The North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Working Group advances the goals of reconciliation and economic development for the territory.
- In 2024, the Working Group met monthly and will continue to meet monthly in 2025.
- Our joint approach respects environmental stewardship, including the protection of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

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North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The First Nations in northern Yukon have expressed a desire to see a collaborative approach to any future oil and gas development in their Traditional Territories.
 - President Trump has noted an intent to increase domestic oil and gas production. This may lead to increased interest in oil and gas resource development in Alaska.
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Background:

- The North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding established the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum ("Forum"), consisting of the Chief of each of the First Nation Parties, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Working Group ("Working Group"), appointed by the Forum.
- In 2022, the Forum developed and signed a work plan to address priority issues.
- In June 2023, the Forum met to discuss:
 - Chance Oil and Gas Ltd.'s permit extension request;
 - the *Oil and Gas Act* Section 68 Benefits Agreement; and
 - the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* Screening Committee Assessment Process steps.
- In 2024, the Working Group met monthly and will continue to meet monthly in 2025. Matters related to Chance Oil and Gas Ltd. have been a focus of recent discussions, including the status for compliance of orders issued under the *Oil and Gas Act*, the well maintenance and flow testing program, and the proposed exploration program in Eagle Plains basin. (See BN #80)
- North Yukon has the only active oil and gas permits in the territory. These occur within the Traditional Territories of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 7, 2025
Last updated:

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

North Yukon Oil and Gas

Energy, Mines and

Memorandum of Understanding

Resources

Approved by:

Paul Moore

January 20, 2025

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

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.
- 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.
- 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.

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

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- 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.
 - By building a more resilient Dempster Highway, we are enhancing a critical corridor that serves multiple sectors, including tourism, the transport of vital supplies and local communities.
 - 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.
 - 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.

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Public Works

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- 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.

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.
- 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.

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Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)

Highways and
Public Works

- 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.
- 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.

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- We place the highest value on meaningful consultation and I look forward to these discussions as we advance the Gateway program.

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.

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.
- 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.

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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 Tuchtua 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.
- Through the delivery of these projects, we aim for significant employment and training opportunities for Yukoners and Yukon First Nations.

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Public Works

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- 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.
- This process involves continued planning and collaboration with the affected Yukon First Nation. It encompasses key steps like project

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Public Works

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

- 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

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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 17, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved