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#### Recommended response:

- The Executive Council Office leads initiatives that contribute to the following six goals:
  - prioritizing efforts to advance reconciliation;
  - improving health care;
  - fostering collaboration with other jurisdictions for the benefit of Yukoners;
  - advancing Arctic security;
  - supporting Yukoners and Yukon youth.

#### Prioritizing efforts to see reconciliation upheld

- The Premier travelled to communities to meet with many Yukon First Nations Chiefs and Councils to discuss community priorities and reaffirm government-to-government relationships.
- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations leaders also held Yukon Forum meetings throughout the year to discuss and support the advancement of work on shared priorities.
- There was an Intergovernmental Forum in December in Ottawa where the Government of Yukon, Yukon First Nations and the Government of Canada's leaders met to discuss Canada's Collaborative Fiscal Policy and matters important to Yukon communities, including Arctic security and emergency management.
- In addition to the Intergovernmental Forum, the Premier and several territorial ministers joined a group of Yukon Chiefs in Ottawa for a series of trilateral meetings with federal ministers during the annual Yukon Days. This joint advocacy continues to demonstrate ongoing reconciliation with a focus on meaningful collaboration.

### ECO accomplishments

### Executive Council Office

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- We are supporting the implementation of accords with White River First Nation and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. Discussions are also underway on the establishment of new accords with other interested First Nations.
- The Government of Yukon completed several significant agreements with First Nations and is in negotiations with others on issues related to government-to-government relationships, capacity development and First Nations interests in land planning, resource development and fish and wildlife management.
- On March 8, 2023, Liard First Nation and the Government of Yukon signed an agreement on the development of 43 new serviced residential lots on Frances Avenue in Watson Lake. Under this agreement, the Government of Yukon will make 24 lots available to the public, while 18 lots will be transferred to Liard First Nation upon request. We estimate that the 24 lots will be made available to the public in summer 2025.
- On September 23, 2024, we signed a Political Protocol with Liard First Nation to provide a strong foundation for respectful partnership and collaboration.
- On September 25, 2024, we signed a Letter of Intent with Ross River Dena Council which confirmed our mutual commitment to work together to our interests and priorities in relation to governance, community health and safety, land and resource management, and economic opportunities.
- We are working with Ross River Dena Council and Parks Canada to assess the feasibility of establishing a national park reserve and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area in the Ross River area.
  - This initiative allows us to explore new approaches to reconciliation in the Ross River area, while ensuring that industry, communities and the public have opportunities to provide input on their values and interests during the feasibility assessment process.

### ECO accomplishments

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- Negotiations are underway with Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, related to the relicensing of the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station, and with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun for the relicensing of the Mayo Generating Station.
- The Government of Yukon is grateful to Teslin Tlingit Council for their ongoing participation in the implementation of the Nisutlin Bay Bridge project. First Nations participation was a large component of this value-driven tendering process. The Government of Yukon has also provided additional funding to the Teslin Tlingit Council to support their participation in the project. These agreements range from project planning, implementation support, a community liaison position, fisheries initiatives and environmental baseline studies, fibre recovery, and artwork for the new bridge.
- We supported the negotiation of the agreement that established the Yukon First Nation School Board. Eight schools voted to join the First Nation School Board in 2022 and another three schools joined in 2023.
- Since early 2021, this government, through the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* Oversight Group, has been actively developing a targeted amendment to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* that would allow, with Yukon First Nations' consent, an exemption from assessment for projects that involve a renewal or amendment to an existing authorization.

### Continuing to identify ways to support a broad range of reconciliation initiatives and projects

- In April 2024, we provided funding in support of a Chiefs and Mayors Forum where representatives from First Nations and municipalities engaged in meaningful conversation and identified opportunities for collaboration. Meetings such as this advance reconciliation and allow for cooperative initiatives that create a better future for Yukon communities.

## ECO accomplishments

## Executive Council Office

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- Since 2021, we have provided funding and administrative support to the Yukon Residential Schools and Missing Children Project and have also committed to provide additional funding for 2025–26.
- The Government of Yukon provides funding and administrative support to the Mapping the Way joint public education campaign about the Final and Self-Government Agreements.
- We continue to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and work collaboratively with Yukon First Nations on these and other reconciliation initiatives.
- A trilateral process to amend the education provisions in five Yukon First Nation Self-Government Agreements was completed, and the amendment process is underway for another three First Nations.
  - These amendments ensure that the Self-Government Agreements are consistent and support First Nations' involvement in the education system.
- Since 2020, we have been working on a Consultation and Engagement Improvement Initiative.
  - This includes developing a web-based consultation and engagement management system and training and support materials to help Yukon government staff carry out meaningful consultation and engagement processes with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments.
  - Many of the tools are already in use and we anticipate launching the web-based system in fall 2025.
- Since 2017, we have been collaborating with an Intergovernmental Working Group toward developing corporate policy and internal guidance on how to respectfully reflect Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being in Government of Yukon actions and decisions.



- This includes work to develop a set of guiding principles that will offer a framework for subsequent policy and implementation initiatives, as well as a software application that will ensure that Indigenous knowledge that is shared with the Yukon government is appropriately protected, tracked and applied.

### Improving health care

- On December 16, 2024, Premier met with Canada's Premiers in Toronto for the Council of the Federation fall meeting.
- At the meeting, Premiers discussed actions being taken to improve health outcomes for Canadians, including the recruitment and retention of healthcare workers. Premiers also directed health ministers to work to accelerate patient access to new and lifesaving publicly funded medicines.
- In July 2024, Premier met with Canada's Premiers in Halifax to discuss health care. Premiers agreed to task provincial and territorial health ministers to explore a common, streamlined licensing process for doctors, based on the Atlantic Physician Registry, while respecting Québec's specific context. They look forward to an update on this work in the coming months.
- On March 12, 2024, after several years of advocacy by Premiers through the Council of the Federation, the Government of Yukon signed bilateral agreements providing the Yukon with \$86 million:
  - to expand primary health care services;
  - to support long-term care, home care and community care;
  - to respond to the Substance Use Health Emergency; and
  - to recruit and retain health care workers.
- On November 6, 2023, Premier met with Canada's Premiers in Nova Scotia for a Council of the Federation meeting.

## ECO accomplishments

Executive Council Office

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- At the meeting, Premier Pillai raised the Government of Yukon's perspectives and interests on common priorities including housing, infrastructure and health care.
- On July 26, 2023, the Premier signed a letter of intent with Nova Scotia to work together to enhance training, recruitment, retention and labour mobility for health human resources.

### Fostering collaboration with other jurisdictions

- In January 2025, the Premier attended a working meeting of First Ministers to discuss Canada-U.S. relations, the border plan and the potential response to U.S. tariffs. First Ministers left the meeting unified on a common Team Canada approach and a commitment for ongoing engagement.
- In December 2024, Premier met with the Prime Minister and several federal ministers to discuss Government of Yukon priorities for the coming year and advocate for additional support for key projects and initiatives, such as the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* targeted amendment and additional territorial financial flexibilities.
- In September, the Premier met with federal Ministers in Ottawa to discuss Yukon priorities including the Eagle Mine response and infrastructure that supports our communities and economy.
- The Premier participated in the Council of the Federation summer meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in July 2024, where he discussed Yukon priorities including:
  - affordable housing and the cost of living;
  - Arctic sovereignty and security;
  - building infrastructure that supports vibrant communities and promotes economic growth; and
  - recruiting and retaining health professionals.

### ECO accomplishments

### Executive Council Office

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- The Premier met with federal Ministers in Ottawa in June 2024 to discuss Yukon priorities including long-term economic growth, Arctic security, immigration and tourism.
- In June 2024, a delegation including the Deputy Premier and Yukon First Nations leaders travelled to London, England, on a mission of cultural diplomacy, reconciliation and industry engagement.
- The Premier chaired the Western Premiers' Conference in Whitehorse in June 2024. Premiers discussed shared priorities and collaborative action on regional economic growth and improving the quality of life for western Canadians.
- The Premier took part in the June 6, 2024, commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day in France, honouring the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought for freedom.
- On May 31, 2024, the Premier met with the U.S. Ambassador, U.S. Consul General, French Ambassador, French Consul General and German Ambassador – marking the first visit for the current U.S. and French ambassadors and the second visit for the German ambassador to the Yukon.
- The Premier met the NWT and Nunavut Premiers in Mittimatalik – Pond Inlet – in Nunavut for their annual Northern Premiers' Forum meeting in May 2024. They continued their discussions on Arctic security and sovereignty, disaster preparedness and response, infrastructure, housing needs, and the health and wellbeing of northerners.
  - Before the forum, Northern Premiers met with the federal Minister of National Defence, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister of Northern Affairs in Iqaluit.
- On April 24, 2024, the Premier met the U.S. Consul in Whitehorse to discuss Canada-U.S. border matters, critical minerals opportunities, mining

### ECO accomplishments

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sector infrastructure, Arctic security and cross-border training initiatives on community safety and MMIWG2S+ issues.

- On April 22, 2024, the Premier met the UK Consul General in Whitehorse, highlighting Government of Yukon priorities including mining sector infrastructure, clean and secure energy, and partnerships with Yukon First Nations governments.
- The Premier participated in the Arctic Encounter Symposium in Anchorage on April 12, 2024, as part of the Government of Yukon's commitment to working closely with Alaska on matters of joint concern and interest.
- The Premier met with the Japanese Consul General on March 27, 2024, discussing topics including the Yukon's strategic significance in the Asia-Pacific and Arctic regions, economic collaboration, critical minerals, tourism, immigration and cultural exchange.
- From February 8 to 9, 2024, the Governor of Alaska and members of his Cabinet visited Whitehorse to discuss renewed cooperation on regional issues, including highways, fish and wildlife, community safety, wildfire management, regional security and economic development.
- In April 2024, the Government of Yukon was pleased to see the impact of the territory's close relationship with the Government of Alaska.
- Through significant U.S. investment, we will see much-needed upgrades on the north Alaska Highway beginning in 2025 and continuing until the end of the project in 2027. This funding was secured through the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.
- In July 2024, the U.S. government approved an application from the State of Alaska and the Government of Yukon for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity funding for the Alaska Highway.
- On January 5, 2024, the Premier and Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources met with Minister Wilkinson of Energy and Natural Resources,



and members of the mining industry to discuss infrastructure that can support critical minerals development.

- On November 30, 2023, the Premier and a Yukon government delegation completed a mission to Europe to promote opportunities in the territory, namely in terms of accessing the critical minerals needed to shift to sustainable energy.
- On October 30, 2023, the Premier met with the BC Premier to discuss priorities including renewable energy and the potential of connecting the Yukon to BC's electrical grid.
- On September 25, 2023, the Premier met virtually with the Alaska Governor to discuss Arctic security, key infrastructure such as Shakhwak and the Port of Skagway and much else.
- On September 22, 2023, the Premier met with federal Ministers in Ottawa on a range of topics, including affordable housing, infrastructure development, immigration and reconciliation.
- On September 20, 2023, the Premier and a business delegation concluded the Asia mission to Tokyo and India.
  - The mission focused on developing partnerships, promoting innovation and collaboration in critical minerals and technology, and increasing business investment in the Yukon and tourism to the territory.
- On July 12, 2023, the Premier met with his counterparts from across the country at the Council of the Federation summer meeting and discussed topics including health human resources, infrastructure, economic growth and Arctic security.
- On June 27, 2023, at the Western Premiers' Conference, the Premier discussed strategic infrastructure and trade corridors, energy security, climate action, Arctic security, mental health and more with his counterparts.

### ECO accomplishments

### Executive Council Office

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- On June 8, 2023, the Premier met with 25 Ambassadors and High Commissioners to Canada as part of Global Affairs Canada's northern diplomatic tour.
  - They discussed the economy, clean energy, health and more.
- On May 17, 2023, the three territorial Premiers met for the Northern Premiers' Forum and discussed shared priorities including Arctic security, infrastructure, critical minerals and housing.
- On May 8, 2023, the Premier met with the Consuls General of the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan to discuss issues of shared importance.
- On May 2, 2023, the Premier met with Premier of Ontario Doug Ford and signed a memorandum of understanding on collaboration in the housing development and investment sectors.

#### Advancing Arctic security

- On December 6, 2024, Premier Pillai joined Minister Joly, Minister Blair and the other territorial premiers to announce Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy.
- On November 21, 2024, the Government of Yukon and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency announced funding for the Canadian Institute for Arctic Security – \$300,000 over two fiscal years. The Yukon government is leading this work.
- On November 19, 2024, the Arctic Security Advisory Council delivered their report to the Premier. The report was made public.
- On January 4, 2024, the Government of Yukon announced the establishment of the Yukon Arctic Security Advisory Council to ensure the Yukon's distinct context and needs are considered in federal decision making about Arctic security.
  - The council provides independent, expert advice to the territorial government on future risks and opportunities.

### ECO accomplishments

### Executive Council Office

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- On October 23, 2023, the Premier met with the U.S. Consul General about opportunities for the U.S. and the Yukon to work together on key priorities such as Arctic security.

#### Supporting recovery from COVID-19

- On June 16, 2023, the COVID-19 Recovery Research Program concluded with a public Research Results Summit held in Whitehorse.
  - The program supported 10 project teams in successfully completing research that addresses Yukon-specific research questions.
  - In addition to the researchers' direct efforts to share the results with partners and stakeholders, internal briefing materials for Government of Yukon leadership were prepared and shared by the Science Advisor's office as results were released, supporting departments in the application of relevant evidence to current and future program and policy decisions.

#### Supporting Yukon youth

- The Government of Yukon provides over \$1.2 million of annual operational funding to five key youth serving organizations:
  - Association franco-yukonnaise \$31,000
  - BYTE-Empowering Youth Society \$304,000
  - BGC Yukon \$297,000
  - Heart of Riverdale Community Centre \$298,000
  - Youth of Today Society \$291,000
- Commencing in 2022–23, BYTE – Empowering Youth Society, BGC Yukon, Heart of Riverdale Community Centre and the Youth of Today Society received an annual operational funding increase of \$20,000. Association franco-yukonnaise received a \$6,000 annual increase.
- The Government of Yukon allocated \$424,000 of Confidence and Supply Agreement funding for each of the fiscal years 2023–24, 2024–25 and

## ECO accomplishments

## Executive Council Office

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2025–26 to the following five key youth organizations to support youth mental health and wellness.

- Association franco-yukonnaise is receiving \$1,860 annually.
- BGC Yukon is receiving \$182,140 annually, with additional funding to support a seven-day per week drop-in service.
- BYTE, Heart of Riverdale Community Centre and the Youth of Today Society are receiving \$80,000 each annually.
- The Government of Yukon provides up to \$320,000 of annual project funding to support the Youth Developmental Asset Program for youth activities, training and employment for Kwanlin Dün First Nation and 16 Yukon communities.
- In November 2024, the Government of Yukon announced funding of over \$74,000 for 19 community projects through the Youth Investment Fund to support the important role that young people play in shaping the future of the territory.
- On August 20, 2024, we announced that four Yukon youths have received the annual Outstanding Youth Achievement Award for their contributions throughout the territory.

### Supporting Yukoners

#### Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan:

- The Government of Yukon released the Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan in December 2023.
  - This living document was developed in collaboration with community partners and summarizes the actions taken to date and future actions to help shape a safe, supportive and thriving downtown Whitehorse.
- On September 25, 2024, the government announced new initiatives to the Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan, as well as the



recommendations from the April 2024 Coroner's Inquest into the deaths of four Yukon First Nations women occurring at 405 Alexander Street.

- Subject to legislative approval, the new initiatives include:
  - funding for the RCMP and the Safe Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Unit, which will result in the hiring of two new RCMP officers for the Whitehorse Detachment and one new SCAN investigator,
  - the launch of a new pilot Crime Prevention Grant program which will provide financial support through the 2026 to 2027 fiscal year to businesses and organizations that are taking steps to improve their security,
  - working with the Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative of the Government of Canada and the Canadian Centre for Safer Communities to establish a partnership with the City of Whitehorse, which will continue engagement with downtown businesses and residents and provide a clear path to bringing multiple perspectives together to identify clear and actionable priorities to improve safety and wellbeing in Whitehorse,
  - re-opening the warming centre and community space in the Jim Smith Building this winter, noting that in approximately six weeks, last year's pilot project saw more than 1,200 visits from Yukoners (1,436 visits between November 4 and January 7) who were able to use the space to connect with support workers, use computers and print, make phone calls, access the internet, get warm, have snacks and beverages, access harm reduction supplies, period products, bus tickets and washroom facilities,
  - renovating the Yukon Housing Corporation building at 408 Alexander Street so that the Safe at Home Society can operate a

- 17-unit supportive housing program that will offer secure, supervised housing to Yukoners who require wrap-around supports;
- The Government of Yukon awarding more than \$2.2 million dollars in the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 fiscal years to Yukon-based community projects through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence's victim support and prevention projects stream,
  - supporting the continued implementation of Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy which includes multiple actions lead by multiple partners to support the safety of women, girls and Two-spirit+ people living in the Yukon,
  - addressing community concerns along Alexander Street by removing fencing, tree branches and benches and increasing private security presence and the frequency of outdoor maintenance at Yukon government-owned facilities to reduce loitering, anti-social behaviour and the setup of temporary structures,
  - continuing to partner with Safe at Home Society to develop The Hearth, a 67-unit permanent supportive housing project at the former High Country Inn – to date, Yukon Housing Corporation has invested \$12.9 million in funding to this project and the Department of Health and Social Services will be contributing \$777,000 for the Safe at Home Society to administer supportive housing at 408 Alexander in funding through the 2024–25 Supplementary Budget,
  - supporting people experiencing gender-based violence by offering a rent subsidy through the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit so they can obtain and maintain safe housing – this program will provide individuals who need to access safe housing with up to \$2,000 per month for 12 months, followed by a gradually reduced benefit for an

### ECO accomplishments

Executive Council Office

additional six months, so they can leave unsafe situations at home – and more than \$2 million annually will be available, and

- encouraging the City of Whitehorse to sign a letter of intent to clarify the municipality's roles and responsibilities with respect to community safety in Whitehorse and continuing to work with all partners to do their part to make downtown Whitehorse safer for everyone.

### Other accomplishments to note

- In January 2024, the Government of Yukon commemorated the territory's 125th anniversary with the release of medals featuring original artwork by Violet Gatensby.
  - The medals were awarded to outstanding Yukoners who demonstrated values of leadership and reconciliation.
- On June 13, 2023, members held a special sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly in its historic home in Dawson to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Yukon becoming a territory of Canada.
- On November 21, 2024, *Electoral District Boundaries Act* received assent, which made changes to the electoral district boundaries. These changes include adding three more electoral districts, from 19 to 21.
  - Other changes included dividing Whistle Bend into two different ridings; combining Watson Lake, Ross River and Faro, and keeping Vuntut Gwitchin as its own riding.
  - Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes were also divided into two districts by including Golden Horn with Mount Lorne, and Marsh Lake and merging Teslin with Southern Lakes, Carcross and Tagish.

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbry

Deputy Minister

Executive Council Office

2025 02 05

Date approved

### **Response to Ross River Dena Council Allegations**

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Executive Council Office

#### **Recommended response:**

- Ross River Dena Council has advised the Government of Yukon of complaints of inappropriate and harmful conduct toward women in the community by a Yukon government employee.
- The Government of Yukon takes allegations of this nature very seriously and immediately referred them to the RCMP.
- We also engaged an independent contractor to conduct a human resources investigation into the allegations. As this is a confidential human resources matter, we will not be making further comments about this investigation.
- Support from Victim Services and Mental Health and Wellness is available for community members.

#### **Additional response:**

- We recognize that gender-based violence is under-reported and disproportionately impacts Indigenous women.
- In addition to the human resources investigation, the Yukon government and Ross River Dena Council have jointly asked the Yukon Ombudsman to conduct an independent review and provide recommendations to ensure that the Government of Yukon is able to effectively and efficiently respond to allegations of inappropriate behaviour by government staff and officials. The Ombudsman's office is at the early stages of their investigation.
- In Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy*, we recognize that systemic injustices and an institutional lack of will to change is one of the four pathways to violence.
- As identified in that Strategy, our actions need to seek systemic change to the structures that enact and enable violence. The Yukon government



Response to Ross River  
Dena Council Allegations

Executive Council Office

is committed to doing so through this review.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- In June 2024, Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) made statements in local media regarding the allegations and there was some related media coverage in September 2024. There may be interest in knowing what the Yukon government is doing in response.

Background:

- In April 2024, the Department of Highways and Public Works (HPW) received a letter dated January 2024 from several members of Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) regarding the conduct of an employee.
- To address the concerns in the letter, a decision was made to engage a third-party investigator to conduct a human resources investigation into the allegations.
- On June 12, 2024, members of the HPW leadership team travelled to Ross River for public service week celebrations. Upon arrival, several RRDC citizens asked the HPW employees to leave the community.
- On November 21, 2024, YG and RRDC jointly requested that the Yukon Ombudsman undertake an independent investigation into, and make a report on, whether there are any identifiable systemic, institutional or cultural factors (including but not limited to structures, policies, procedures and practices) that may have influenced YG’s response as well as how to properly address future similar allegations of wrongdoing.
- The Government of Yukon indicated that it would cover the costs of the Ombudsman’s investigation, subject to reaching an agreement about the confidentiality of the information gathered and the use of trauma-informed and culturally appropriate investigative methods.
- On November 26, 2024, the Ombudsman advised that the investigation could be conducted by staff in the Ombudsman’s office using the operational budget approved by the Member Services Board (MSB) for 2025/26 (excluding investigatory expenses) and requested assurance that the MSB-approved budget will be presented to the Legislative Assembly in spring 2025.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey  
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2025 02 05  
Date approved

**Response to Ross River  
Dena Council Allegations**

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Executive Council Office

## Canada and United States Relations

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Executive Council Office

### Recommended response:

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

### First Ministers' Meetings

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

## Canada and United States Relations

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Executive Council Office

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

### Donald Trump Jr. Meeting

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

### COF Washington Summit

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

## Canada and United States Relations

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Executive Council Office

### Alaska

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

## Canada and United States Relations

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Executive Council Office

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

### Shakwak/Alaska Highway

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

## Canada and United States Relations

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Executive Council Office

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

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### Context—this may be an issue because:

- Canada-US relations and the threat of tariffs from the Trump administration have seized all leaders in Canada.
- First Ministers have met regularly to discuss Canada-U.S. relations, which was been well covered by local and national media.
- There may be confusion on the funding structures for the Shakwak highway, and how the two streams of funding will be used to improve the highway.

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### Background:

#### Canada-US relations

- President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff on all Canadian imports, excluding energy products subject to a 10% tariff, which came into effect on March 4, 2025.
- On March 5, 2025, President Trump announced a one-month exemption on imports from Mexico and Canada for U.S. automakers, if they comply with the terms of CUSMA.
- On March 6, President Donald Trump has lowered the threatened tariff rate to 10 per cent for Canadian potash – a fertilizer essential to all major American crops.
- On March 6, 2025, President Donald Trump “adjusted” an order imposing tariffs on Canada and Mexico, delaying or reducing levies on many goods until April 2.



## Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council Office

The full delay will be applied to any good in compliance with the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).

- As a result of the U.S. administration's adjustment on March 6, Canada will delay its second round of retaliatory tariffs until April 2.
- An executive order effective March 12, 2025, will impose a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminum imports into the United States, removing previous exemptions for key trading partners, including Canada.
- President Trump has indicated that, starting April 2, 2025, the U.S. will implement "reciprocal tariffs," imposing a 25% duty on imports from countries that maintain higher tariffs on U.S. goods. This policy aims to address perceived trade imbalances and could significantly impact U.S.-Canada trade relations.
- The evolving tariff situation has prompted diplomatic efforts and political discourse. Canadian officials are engaging in negotiations to seek clarity and potential exemptions, while U.S. policymakers deliberate on the broader implications of the proposed tariffs.
- The Yukon-U.S. two-way merchandise trade in 2023 stood at \$150.1 million, down from \$240.5 million in 2022. Roughly 85 to 95 per cent of this annual trade is with Alaska.

### Alaska relations

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

## Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council Office

- The Department of Women Gender and Equity Directorate continues to work with the Alaska Department of Public Safety on an MOU related to information sharing on MMIWG2S+.

### Shakwak:

- Through partnership with the State of Alaska and U.S. Federal Highways, the Government of Yukon announced \$37 million USD in project funding over the next several years.
- The finalization of the funding agreements is underway to enable money to start flowing in 2025.
- The new MOU puts our highway in Alaska's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which will give the State more latitude to disperse funds.
- The project in the STIP mirrors the contents of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) application.
- The RAISE award will be brought into the STIP and Alaska is shifting STIP funds to provide us with a budget that will surpass the \$25 million USD RAISE award.
- Conversations between the Government of Yukon's Highways and Public Works (HPW) branch and the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (OTPF) and the U.S. Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) are ongoing.
- Aligning federal information requirements with existing environmental and engineering work done in the Yukon is a challenge.
- Each year's program needs to be approved but getting through this first-year process will speed the approvals in subsequent years.
- FHWA has supplemental information requirements that they need to satisfy before delivering the funds to Alaska and HPW is working to get them all the information they need.
- The project funding is expected to be available for the 2025 construction season. Alaska works on a fiscal year of November to October.

# Session Briefing Note

**ECO TAB 3**  
**Spring 2025**

## Canada and United States Relations

Executive Council Office

Skagway Port Redevelopment: See Hot Topics 08

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2025 03 10

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

## Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

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Executive Council Office

### Recommended response:

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

### Response to Tariffs

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

### **Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response**

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Executive Council Office

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

## Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

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Executive Council Office

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

### Economic and Trade Impact of Tariffs

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

### First Ministers' Meetings

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

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### 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.
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### Background:

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### Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

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Executive Council Office

#### Canada-US relations

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



## Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

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Executive Council Office

### Yukon government's March 4, 2025 response

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

# Session Briefing Note

ECO TAB 3a

Spring 2025

## Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

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Executive Council Office

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

<b>Approved by:</b>	
Justin Ferbey	2025 03 10
_____	_____
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office	Date Approved

### First Nations Interest in Energy Projects

Executive Council  
Office

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#### Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon supports the development of cost-effective renewable energy projects in a manner that fulfils treaty obligations, promotes reconciliation and provides energy security for the Yukon.
- Our government works with First Nations during the assessment and licensing of energy projects, and throughout a project's operation.
- Working with First Nations governments on energy generation projects is fundamental to meeting the Yukon's climate change and energy goals.
- We acknowledge that some First Nations have energy generation or storage projects underway that contribute to meeting these goals.

#### Additional response:

- We are in discussions with Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council on the assessment and relicensing of the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station and with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun on the assessment and relicensing of the Mayo Generating Station. The licenses for both of these facilities expire in 2025.
- We view these discussions as forums to advance reconciliation and reset our government-to-government relationships, recognizing the historical and cultural value of these areas to First Nations.
- Impacts to salmon and other fish species are being discussed as part of these assessments and regulatory reviews.
- The Yukon government, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada are consulting with First Nations and working to issue a decision document for the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station relicensing project, which is needed for the Yukon Water Board process to proceed.

## First Nations Interest in Energy Projects

Executive Council  
Office

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- The current Water Licence expires on May 31, 2025. The Yukon Energy Corporation has submitted an application to the Yukon Water Board for a 60-day licence to provide more time for the assessment and regulatory processes. This is in addition to their application for a 20-year Water Licence which they hope to have in place after the requested 60-day licence.
  - We acknowledge that the Yukon Energy Corporation is working to stay in compliance by going through multiple licence renewal processes.
  - This government recognizes the essential nature of power generation and that the Yukon Energy Corporation provides critical infrastructure and service for Yukoners.
  - We are doing everything in our authority to ensure the lights stay on and the facility is operated safely.
- We are also at the preliminary stages of exploring a grid connection with British Columbia. If that concept is feasible, partnerships with First Nations will be critical to its success.
  - Our government will ensure that discussions on existing and future energy projects include consideration of the rights, interests and potential involvement of Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments.

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### Context—this may be an issue because:

- Concerns about the potential effects of the Whitehorse and Mayo Generating Stations on salmon migration have been raised in the licence renewal process and in local media. Salmon population decline and recovery is a significant First Nations and public interest.
- The First Nations affected by the operations of the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station do not agree on an approach to relicensing the facility. Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council support a long-term approach to relicensing whereas Carcross/Tagish First Nation supports a short-term approach. This issue has been featured in local media coverage.
- The current Whitehorse Generating Station water licence may expire before a new licence is issued. This issue has been featured in local media coverage.

### First Nations Interest in Energy Projects

Executive Council  
Office

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- The Government of Yukon (YG) is completing pre-feasibility work on a potential connection to the BC grid. The Government of Canada has conditionally approved \$40 million to study the feasibility of a potential transmission line. This announcement was featured in local media coverage.
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#### Background:

##### Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station (WRGS)

- The WRGS is operating under a 25-year water licence that expires on May 31, 2025.
- The WRGS project is going through the relicensing process. The YESAA assessment is currently in the decision-making phase and the Yukon Water Board process will follow.
- The assessment has taken longer than expected because of YESAB extensions due to the scale and complexity of the assessment, as well as the concerns identified by participants.
- Comments submitted by First Nations, YG, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and members of the public raised concerns about impacts of the dam on salmon and other fish species as well as the data available to the assessors.
- YG, the Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC), Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN), Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC) began working collaboratively on the relicensing project in April 2022.
- A Technical Working Group (TWG) with representation from YG, YEC, C/TFN, KDFN, and TKC has been established to focus on the assessment and relicensing processes.
- Negotiators from YG, YEC, KDFN and TKC are developing Energy Agreements which are intended to build a better relationship with respect to the ongoing operation of the WRGS.
- C/TFN was involved in Energy Agreement negotiations but has stopped participating as they do not support a long-term approach to relicensing. YG is consulting with C/TFN, KDFN, TKC, and Taku River Tlingit First Nation regarding the potential impacts of the ongoing operation of the WRGS on their treaty and asserted Indigenous rights.

##### Mayo Generating Station (MGS)

- The water licence for the MGS expires on December 31, 2025.
- The MGS project is in the Evaluation stage of the YESAA assessment and the Mayo Designated Office has issued a second information request to the proponent.
- YG, YEC and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun (FNNND) began working collaboratively on the relicensing project in December 2022 and discussions are ongoing.
- YG will be consulting with FNNND regarding the potential impacts of the ongoing operation of the MGS on its treaty rights.

### First Nations Interest in Energy Projects

Executive Council  
Office

#### Atlin Hydro Expansion

- Tlingit Homeland Energy Limited Partnership (THELP) is proposing to expand its Atlin hydroelectric generation infrastructure to increase its power output from 2.1 megawatts (MW) to 10 MW. The additional electricity would be sold to YEC, increasing the Yukon's supply of renewable energy, especially in the winter when it is most needed.
- If the project proceeds, it would include a transmission line from Atlin, BC, to Jakes Corner, a new substation and upgrades to the transmission line from Jake's Corner to Whitehorse.
- The proponent is continuing to seek funding from the Federal government for the project.

#### North Fork Hydro

- Oro Enterprises is proposing to construct and operate a 2 MW run-of-river hydroelectric generating station on the North Klondike River, in the overlapping Traditional Territories of FNNND and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH).
- The potential redevelopment of a hydro project at this site is subject to several provisions in the TH Final Agreement. Should the project proceed, these provisions impose certain obligations on YG including an exchange of Settlement Land for Crown land.
- In December 2022, TH indicated that they do not support the project due to potential impacts to TH Traditional Territory and treaty rights. YG has encouraged the proponent to contact TH directly to better understand the First Nation's concerns.

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey  
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2025 03 21  
Date

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

**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)**

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ECO – EMR - ENV

**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.

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**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)**

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ECO – EMR - ENV

- 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**\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister of Environment\_\_\_\_\_  
Date approved

### National Park/IPCA Feasibility Study in the Ross River Area

### Executive Council Office

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#### Recommended response:

- In December 2024, the Government of Yukon, Ross River Dena Council, and Parks Canada initiated a collaborative process to examine the feasibility of protecting lands in the Ross River area.
- This study will provide a basis for advancing reconciliation, land use certainty and economic development within the Kaska asserted traditional territory, where there is no treaty or Final Agreement.
- Existing land access, tenure, rights and permitted uses in the area will not be affected by the study. This includes mining land use approvals, outfitting and trapping concessions, licenced hunting, and tourism.
- We anticipate that the Steering Committee leading the feasibility study will identify opportunities for stakeholders and the public to provide input on their values and interests beginning in early 2025.

#### Additional response:

- In a Memorandum of Understanding signed in December 2024, the three governments agreed to consider the potential environmental, economic, socio-economic, natural resource, heritage and cultural benefits and impacts associated with different regions in the study area.
- The Steering Committee will develop recommendations on what area or areas may warrant special protection using federal or territorial legal tools such as national or territorial park designations. No decisions have yet been made about the establishment of any form of protected area.
- The area being studied is part of the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon, which has been withdrawn from mineral staking since 2013.
- This initiative is a significant step toward establishing the land use certainty that is needed for a prosperous and healthy future for Ross River Dena Council citizens and all Yukoners.

### National Park/IPCA Feasibility Study in the Ross River Area

### Executive Council Office

#### Context — this may be an issue because:

- There was media coverage of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and stakeholders have since expressed concerns about the potential impact of the study on mining, trapping, hunting and outfitting.

#### Background:

- On December 4, 2024, the Yukon government (YG), Parks Canada, and Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) signed a *Memorandum of Understanding on the Feasibility of a National Park and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) in the Ross River Area*.
- The MOU was developed in consideration of the commitments made by YG in the 2020 Yukon Parks Strategy regarding potential IPCAs, the 2022 Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement regarding potential new national parks, Our Clean Future regarding the establishment of a network of ecologically representative protected and managed areas, and a September 2024 commitment between YG and RRDC to pursue the development of an IPCA proposal. IPCAs are used in other jurisdictions to bring effect to reconciliation goals between Crown and Indigenous governments.
- Signing the MOU enabled Parks Canada to provide funding to support RRDC's participation in the process and for the feasibility assessment itself.
- On December 6, 2024, YG sent a letter to a broad range of stakeholders with interests in the Study Area to share available information about the upcoming process.
- On December 20, 2024, YG held an online information session with the Chamber of Mines and its members, which was attended by over 20 industry representatives.
- The trilateral government-to-government Steering Committee will be established in spring 2025. The Steering Committee is responsible for establishing the project work plan and timelines, including plans for stakeholder engagement and public communications.
- The feasibility study is anticipated to take one to two years and will result in recommendations from the Steering Committee to the three governments, all of whom would have to agree to proceed with the establishment of one or more protected areas if recommended.

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey  
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2025 03 03  
Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2025**

### Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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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 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](http://Yukon.ca).

**Additional responses:**

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

## Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

### Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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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.

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#### 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.

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#### Background:

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

#### Economic and labour market

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



## Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2025**

### Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

#### Finances

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

# Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2025**

## Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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### 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](http://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](http://Yukon.ca).
- There has been no decision as to whether an inquiry will also be established under the *Public Inquiries Act*.

## Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2025**

### Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

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EMR-ECO-FIN

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

#### Historic overview

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

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

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

**Approved By:**

Sierra van der Meer

April 29, 2025

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 Deputy Minister  
Energy, Mines and Resources

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 Date Approved

Justin Ferbey

2025 04 22

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 Deputy Minister  
Executive Council Office

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 Date Approved

Jessica Schultz

April 25, 2025

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 Deputy Minister  
Department of Finance

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 Date Approved

## Session Briefing Note

### Port of Skagway

## Spring 2025

### Economic Development

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#### Recommended response:

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

#### Additional response:

- We welcome recent engagement by industry representatives with Skagway, including Western Copper and Gold.
- The department is monitoring potential project-related implications of the US/Canada tariff situation.
- \$44.7 million (CAD) is included in the Capital Plan between 2026-27 and 2028-29 for the project.

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#### Context — this may be an issue because:

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

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**Background:**

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

# Session Briefing Note

## Port of Skagway

# TAB 1

## Spring 2025

### Economic Development

- Hecla Yukon Exports. Hecla's Keno Hill project exports containerized silver-lead and zinc concentrate through the Port of Skagway, with the former shipped to Washington state for re-export to smelters in Asia, and the latter to Hecla's Greens Creek to be combined with the zinc concentrate produced at that mine.
- According to Hecla Yukon's January 2023 Operations Plan, it ships 690 dry metric tonnes (DMT) of silver-lead concentrate and 220 DMT of zinc concentrate through Skagway each month.
- Yukon's exports of lead concentrate to the US totaled \$39.7 million, and its exports of zinc concentrate totaled \$7.4 million in 2023.
- Hecla's exports through Skagway are containerized and use existing container export infrastructure. To the department's knowledge, Hecla's future operations would be unlikely to require the marine services platform.

#### Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025  
Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

### Minto Mine Status and Update

**Spring 2025**  
Energy, Mines and  
Resources

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#### 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.



# Session Briefing Note

## Minto Mine Status and Update

**#23**  
**Spring 2025**  
Energy, Mines and  
Resources

- Place holder for update on package B prior to session

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### 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.

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### 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.

# Session Briefing Note

## Minto Mine Status and Update

**#23**  
**Spring 2025**  
Energy, Mines and  
Resources

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

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**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

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- 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.

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**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 &amp; 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

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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Spring 2025

Finance

### 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.
- After much improved inflation figures throughout 2024, inflation moved higher over the first two months of 2025. Inflation in Whitehorse rose to 3.5 per cent in February. This was tied with Manitoba for the highest in the country.
- Higher inflation was observed in every province and territory in February as national inflation accelerated from 1.9 per cent to 2.6 per cent.
- Shelter and food continue to be the primary contributors to inflation. Of the top five contributors to price growth in February, four fall under the shelter component: mortgage interest costs, rent, homeowner's replacement costs and electricity. Rounding out the top five was food purchased from restaurants, which was up 6 per cent on a year-over-year basis.
- Many factors can impact monthly inflation figures and recent growth may not be indicative of a return to higher inflation in 2025. The

## Session Briefing Note

### Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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Spring 2025

Finance

department will continue to monitor inflation data to see if it aligns with previous expectations for inflation for the year.

- 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 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.

## Session Briefing Note

### Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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Spring 2025

Finance

- 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.

#### 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:
  - Subsidies for medical travel
  - The Yukon Child Benefit
  - Social Assistance Payments
  - Student Financial Assistance
  - Seniors' benefits



# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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Spring 2025

Finance

- 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.

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### 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.
- Inflation has ticked up in the first two months of 2025, with February inflation of 3.5 per cent tied with Manitoba for the highest in the country.

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### Background:

Prepared for Minister Silver  
Department of Finance

Date prepared: February 24, 2025  
Last Updated: March 18, 2025

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## Session Briefing Note

### Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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#### 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.
- 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.

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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Spring 2025

Finance

\*\*\* 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.

#### 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.

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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Spring 2025

Finance

- 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.
- 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.

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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Spring 2025

Finance

- 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 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)

# Session Briefing Note

## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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Spring 2025

Finance

- 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.
- 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.

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### Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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- 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.

## 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.

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## Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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### 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.

**Approved by:**

Jessica Schultz

March 18, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, Finance\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved



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**Government priority:**

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with NGOs, the Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations and our community partners to meet the needs of the community and 405 Alexander guests.

**Key messages:**

- The Government of Yukon is working to support our community and vulnerable populations by providing 24/7 shelter, supportive living units and a range of drop-in services at 405 Alexander.
- The Department of Health and Social Services supports 405 Alexander guests with Mental Wellness and Substance Use outreach services, including the Referred Care Clinic's Opioid Treatment Services, Emergency Medical Services and Home Care.
- The Government of Yukon is addressing the complex challenges of homelessness, substance use and public safety in Whitehorse through continued collaboration with Connective and the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- In October 2024, we completed the jury's eight recommendations. Among them, the Government of Yukon and Connective have reviewed 104 policies, implemented and trained staff on new procedures, developed a critical incident reporting framework, and continue to work on creating a safe, welcoming space for guests of 405 Alexander.

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**Improvements and updates:**

- New and updated policies and procedures at 405 Alexander were introduced throughout 2024 and are continuing into 2025.
- The Government of Yukon and Connective both reviewed policies and procedures, recommending and implementing ongoing improvements.
- Per the jury's recommendations from the inquest, all policies were reviewed and updated by October of 2024. Connective is committed to ongoing annual reviews of policies and procedures.
- A gate has been installed in front of the dining room at night, allowing staff to more closely monitor common areas.
- Shower and washroom checks are performed every 15 minutes to ensure safety.
- Shower spaces are equipped with a Brave Sensor, designed to detect when movement has stopped and notify staff of an issue requiring an immediate wellness check.
  - Brave Sensors rely on cellular signal reception, leading to occasionally inconsistent reliability.
- Connective has hired an Outreach Worker to improve client access to supports and case management.
- Monthly talking circles have been introduced and guest rights and responsibilities are posted, ensuring feedback from guests is heard regularly.
- A Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee dedicated to 405 Alexander staff was established in spring 2024.
- Incident reporting procedures have been improved. The procedures are guided by an incident reporting matrix co-developed with the Yukon government in October 2024.



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### 405 Alexander (Connective)

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#### Key facts:

- 405 Alexander has capacity for 54 emergency shelter guests per night and has 20 permanent supportive housing units operating under Housing First principles.
- From April 1, 2024, to January 31, 2025, the average occupancy rate per night was 45.9 shelter guests (85 per cent).
- From April 1, 2024, to January 31, 2025, there were an average of 18.6 residents per month living in the Housing First program.

#### 405 Alexander Programming

- Ongoing programming at 405 Alexander in February included:
  - The Council of Yukon First Nations Cultural Programming
  - EMS Paramedic Specialist Program
  - Downtown Outreach Clinic (KDFN and Home Care) – weekly on Wednesdays. This is in addition to Connective’s regular outreach worker, who is available onsite to provide one-on-one supports.
  - Mental Wellness and Substance use Services Counsellor on site – weekly on Mondays
  - Referred Care Clinic – twice-weekly on Mondays and Thursdays
  - Blood Ties Four Directions Outreach – weekly on Wednesdays
  - Connection Circle – monthly
- Upcoming training for staff includes:
  - Grief and Self Care Workshop with Hospice Yukon

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- o Safe Spaces training with Queer Yukon

**Available supports:**

- Opioid Treatment Services from the Referred Care Clinic for guests of 405 Alexander are available on-site two days a week. This approach has been successful in increasing engagement in Opioid Treatment Services.
- We are working with Blood Ties Four Directions to increase awareness among guests of 405 Alexander of the Supervised Consumption Site and have expanded the services and hours of operation onsite and through the outreach van.
- Guests have access to harm reduction education and supplies, including Naloxone kits and connection to appropriate supports and services.
- Guests have access to Social Workers and nursing support.
- Shelter guests also have access to cultural support and programming through the Council of Yukon First Nations.

**Connective Extension:****Speaking notes:**

- The emergency shelter and the 20 Housing First units located at 405 Alexander are operated by Connective in partnership with the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- The Government of Yukon is extending agreements with Connective for 405 Alexander, Housing First at Wood Street, and Whitehorse



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Residential Services until June 30, 2025, ensuring stability while long-term sheltering solutions are developed.

- This short-term extension maintains existing service levels while reinforcing oversight, operational standards and collaboration to improve shelter operations, safety and community partnerships.
- This short-term extension does not maintain the status quo as it includes stronger oversight, operational improvements and enhanced accountability measures to improve safety and service delivery.
- The Government of Yukon is investing \$2.07 million in this three-month extension, covering shelter operations, staffing, security enhancements and culturally relevant programming.
- Clients will not experience service disruptions, and operational changes such as increased staffing, security measures and Indigenous-led programming will strengthen support for vulnerable Yukoners.
- This extension aligns with the April 2024 Coroner's Inquest recommendations, the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy and downtown safety initiatives to improve shelter operations and community wellbeing.
- The Government of Yukon will be working with Yukon First Nations, the Council of Yukon First Nations and community partners to explore long-term sheltering solutions with plans to develop a Territorial Sheltering Strategy that ensures sustainable and culturally appropriate services.

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- The three-month extension includes \$1.36 million for 405 Alexander Street, bringing the total agreement to \$15.39 million; \$547,327 for Housing First and Whitehorse Residential Services, bringing the total agreement to \$7.17 million; and \$165,461 in additional operating funds, bringing the total support agreement to \$827,308.
- This short-term measure ensures service continuity while the Government of Yukon works with partners to finalize long-term shelter plans and agreements.
- Operational improvements at 405 Alexander have strengthened safety and oversight, including enhanced training, washroom checks, new harm reduction measures and staff security enhancements.
- Both 405 Alexander and the Housing First building are governed under the Residential Landlord and Tenant Act, ensuring tenant rights are upheld during the extension period.
- The Government of Yukon is working closely with Yukon First Nations and community organizations to improve culturally relevant programming and strengthen shelter services.
- As part of our work on the Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan, the Government of Yukon will be working with community groups, neighbours and NGOs to develop a revitalized sheltering system model that reflects the changing needs of the downtown community.



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### 405 Alexander (Connective)

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**Background:**

- The Government of Yukon assumed operations of 405 Alexander in 2019 with the explicit goal of stabilizing operations and then transferring oversight to a qualified third party.
- Connective Support Society took on operations of 405 Alexander in October 2022.

**Coroner's inquest jury recommendations:**

- A coroner's inquest into the deaths of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at 405 Alexander began April 8, 2024, and concluded April 25, 2024, with the jury issuing eight recommendations.
- In collaboration with Connective, all recommendations were completed by the end of October 2024. A procedure to independently review recent and future deaths at 405 Alexander is still being established through consultation with the Coroner's Service.
- Our aim is to ensure a safe, supportive and responsive environment for all guests of 405 Alexander while honouring the memory of those who have been lost and upholding the government's commitment to community wellbeing.
- To ensure the work initiated in response to the recommendations of the coroner's jury is sustained in an effective and systematic way, the Department of Health and Social Services has established a third-party committee to oversee the implementation of the recommendations.

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- The committee will review the work completed by Connective and Government of Yukon to date and provide a report on the appropriateness and effectiveness of the response.
- The Government of Yukon and Connective have implemented all eight recommendations:
  1. A comprehensive review of 104 policies and related procedures for 405 Alexander has been completed.
    - The review identified gaps and options to address them, informed by best practices.
    - Policies and procedures have been revised and staff are continuously trained as new policies are implemented.
    - Connective is committed to an annual review and ongoing monitoring of the revised policies and procedures to ensure they are meeting the needs of those accessing services.
  2. In collaboration with the Council of Yukon First Nations, 405 Alexander staff, shelter guests and community partner organizations, Connective's leadership reviewed and revised the list of key staff training and training models used and adopted an annual training plan.
    - Connective will monitor implementation of the adopted training plan and will complete its review to ensure continued effectiveness.
  3. Connective established a working group comprised of the organization's staff and Council of Yukon First Nations



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representatives to revise the process of recruiting and hiring Indigenous employees to reduce barriers for Indigenous candidates.

- Connective will continue working with First Nations partners to assess the impact of these changes.
4. The Government of Yukon reviewed results of two audits completed by Connective over the past 10 months evaluating compliance with the provisions of the 405 Alexander TPA and the recommendations made by the jury.
- Connective has made significant progress in addressing the gaps and issues identified from the January 2024 and October 2024 audits.
5. Connective developed a critical incident reporting framework which informed the policy and procedure revisions.
- The Government of Yukon has the responsibility to ensure an independent external review will take place if future deaths occur at 405 Alexander.
6. In June 2024, Government of Yukon officials met with Chiefs of the Yukon First Nations to discuss the best approach for connecting with the families and affected First Nations communities. Where requested by a First Nation, Connective's leadership met directly with the administrative team to hear community concerns and recommendations on how to improve operations at 405 Alexander.

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- In September 2024, Connective implemented additional in-person access to counselling services for the staff working across its programs in Whitehorse.
7. To establish trusting relationships while providing services to shelter guests, Connective engaged Council of Yukon First Nations to support sharing circles at 405 Alexander and improve communication among staff.
- The first Connection Circle was held on June 28, 2024. As well as providing valuable support, these meetings continue to help Connective's leadership engage the shelter guests in discussions related to food services, safety and expectations.
  - Managers now attend every shift exchange to ensure consistency in briefings.
8. Connective is working to create a culture within shelter spaces that promote safety for 2SLGBTQIA+ and female-identifying individuals, guided by best practices in shelter management.
- This includes establishing a more welcoming environment at the shelter by repainting the main floor areas and adding new signage on the rights and responsibilities of shelter guests.



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**Deaths at 405 Alexander:****Speaking notes:**

- Two deaths occurred at 405 Alexander in December 2024. An additional death took place in February 2025.
- Shelter staff called EMS and responded to incidents appropriately, following emergency protocols including initiating CPR and administering Naloxone.
- Further details, including confirmation of the cause of the deaths, may become available following investigation by the Yukon Coroner's Service.
- A Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services staff member was brought onsite to provide counselling support to residents, service users and staff.
- In the past year, incident reporting policies for 405 Alexander have been updated to include a timely and fulsome review of any incidents by staff and supervisors, immediate review and all relevant video footage, collecting and documenting necessary and relevant information and including additional senior management review of all incidents. This new policy and process was applied to this event and all necessary information was turned over to the RCMP and Coroner's Office for their review and investigations.

**EMS presence:**

- Emergency Medical Services has expanded their Paramedic Specialist Clinic hours at 405 Alexander to 20 hours a day.

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- The clinic ensures a Paramedic is on site 20 hours a day and we are working towards expanding this to 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
  - When Paramedics are not stationed on site, Emergency Medical Services are still available by calling 911.
  - The clinic has a spectrometer to test samples of drugs on site. The spectrometer provides a more accurate detection of benzodiazepines, fentanyl and other contaminants.
- Emergency Medical Services supports the Mobile Paramedic Response Unit at 405 Alexander, which is equipped to provide mobile drug testing services, harm reduction supplies and other health care services.
- The Paramedic Response Unit began in October 2022 and operates 10.75 hours a day, seven days a week.
- The Unit is designed to mitigate land ambulance calls and decrease transport to the Emergency Department at the Whitehorse General Hospital.
- The Unit addresses the needs of complex clients, who frequently utilize the 911 system, as well as those requiring social services or other health care instead of emergency care. In such cases, the Paramedics collaborate with the client's care team.
- Although the Paramedic Response Unit attends to a wide range of calls, only 21 per cent of these result in patient transport to the Emergency Department in 2024. This highlights the Unit's effectiveness in reducing 911 calls and diverting clients from the high costs associated with primary care in the Emergency Department.
- In 2024, the Unit responded to 375 calls.

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- 17 per cent of the Paramedic Response Units transports were related to patient appointments.
- The Unit collaborates with Blood Ties Four Directions and the Council of Yukon First Nations to address the Substance Use Health Emergency. They distribute Fentanyl Testing Kits and offer follow-up care to clients who have received Naloxone.

**Shelter standards:**

- To support the development of 405 Alexander's policies, training, and operations, we are developing shelter standards. The standards will provide a framework of consistent services and expectations for all shelters in the Yukon and housing first programs.
- This initiative will provide guidance to all organizations, including the Government of Yukon, who are operating shelters or supportive housing environments.
- The standards are being developed based on national best practices, in partnership with local NGOs and service providers.
- Once finalized, the standards will be embedded in transfer payment agreements and will inform operational requirements for Connective and other NGOs.

**Approved by:**\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt King\_\_\_\_\_  
March 10, 2025

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

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**Government priority:**

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with community partners, First Nations and other governments to address the ongoing Substance Use Health Emergency.
- The Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy represents our commitment to implementing innovative, evidence-based initiatives that reduce and prevent substance use-related harms and support Yukoners in their health and wellbeing.

**Key messages:**

- In January 2022, our government declared a Substance Use Health Emergency in response to an increase in substance use related harms in the territory, including a significant increase in opioid-related deaths.
- In August 2023, in partnership with the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Government of Yukon released the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy.
- This is a territory-wide challenge that requires a collaborative approach. We appreciate the work of our partners: Blood Ties Four Directions, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, Connective, the RCMP, Yukon First Nations and all levels of government towards addressing this public health emergency.

**Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy:**

- Our government collaborated with health system and community partners on the development of the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy.

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- The primary purpose of the strategy is to provide a roadmap for action on how the Government of Yukon, working with partners, can reduce substance use-related harms in the territory.
- As a living document, the strategy is designed to evolve over time as it adapts to the changing needs of the communities and incorporates ongoing feedback from our partners.
- The vision of the strategy is that all Yukoners will be mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically well and safe throughout their lifespans and able to contribute to wellness in their families, cultures, and communities.
- The strategy's mission is that partners will work together to implement innovative, bold and evidence-based actions so that substance use related harms are reduced and the health and wellbeing of Yukoners flourishes.
- The strategy highlights four areas of growth: prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support, and community safety and wellbeing.
- The Government of Yukon is providing funding to support collaborative efforts aimed at implementing an initial 14 actions outlined in the strategy. The actions cover all four areas of growth.
- The status of these initial actions is listed in Appendix A: Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy table.

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**Current data:**

- From April 2016 through September 2024, 106 Yukoners have died due to opioids.
- From January 1 to December 31, 2024, there were 16 confirmed drug toxicity deaths.
  - In 2023, there were 23 confirmed substance use related deaths in the Yukon. 20 of these involved opioids.
  - In 2022, there were 25 confirmed substance use related deaths in the Yukon. 20 of these involved opioids.
- From January 1 to September 30, 2024, there were 47 Emergency Department visits to Yukon hospitals for drug poisoning and 1,651 alcohol-related visits.
  - For the same period in 2023, there were 77 drug poisoning visits and 1,569 alcohol-related visits.
  - In 2023, there were 82 visits to Yukon hospitals for drug poisoning and 1,916 alcohol-related visits.
- From January 1 to December 31, 2024, Emergency Medical Services responded to 286 calls related to suspected drug poisoning and 1,042 alcohol-related calls.
  - In 2023, Emergency Medical Services responded to 327 calls related to suspected drug poisoning and 813 alcohol-related calls.



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**Progress on actions:**

- On September 24, 2024, two information sessions were held about the Planet Youth Initiative for community members, organizations, and leaders interested in creating a healthier future for Yukon youth using an evidence-based approach.
  - The First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, working with both Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and Selkirk First Nation, and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation will both implement Planet Youth's evidence-based Icelandic Prevention Model to address various issues affecting youth in their communities including substance use, mental health, social integration and resilience building.
  - In 2025, the pilot project is starting with both groups beginning planning and completing educational modules in collaboration with the Planet Youth team.
- In June 2024, in partnership with the federal government and local NGOs, we launched the new Canada Yukon Housing Benefit rent subsidy for people fleeing gender-based violence.
  - The program, administered through Yukon Housing Corporation, will provide more than \$2 million annually to help survivors of gender-based violence to obtain and maintain safe housing.
- In February 2024, the Supervised Consumption Site expanded their hours to be open seven days a week from 10:30am to 9:30pm, including statutory holidays.
  - On September 30, 2021, we opened the Supervised Consumption Site and in May 2022 we completed renovations to support inhalation as a consumption method.

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- As of December 31, 2024, staff at the Supervised Consumption Site have reversed 109 onsite overdoses and have had no fatalities.
- In January and June 2024, the Department of Justice increased frontline support staffing within Yukon Community Corrections through the addition of two time-limited positions: an Outreach Support Worker was hired in January 2024, and a Clinical Counsellor in June 2024.
  - The two positions work to meet the needs of those transitioning out of the justice system and will travel to communities to provide support to Yukon Community Corrections clients.
- In 2024, Thay K'i Anint'l (Thigh-KEY- anna-tay) and Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services created a partnership to promote cultural healing journeys specializing in recovery after care.
  - Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services space is used for Thay K'i Anint'l programming, and their program has grown significantly.
  - Thay K'i Anint'l also provides programming within the Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services Intensive Treatment Services Program.
- In 2024, 38 of the 44 applications received for the first intake of the Yukon First Nations Land-Based Healing Fund were approved by the Council of Yukon First Nations. A total of \$3,740,000 has been allocated to support these projects.
  - Launched in November 2023, the Yukon First Nations Land-based Healing Fund Initiative provides funding to Yukon First

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Nations and Yukon First Nation-led organizations over three years to March 31, 2026.

- In 2025–26, the Department of Justice is funding two permanent RCMP officers and the Department of Health and Social Services' Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services' branch is funding two nursing positions to expand capacity to Car 867.
  - With the additional staffing, the program has now expanded from five eight-hour days to seven days a week, with 10-hour shifts to provide greater coverage during peak need hours.
  - We launched Car 867 in October 2022. This Mobile Crisis Response Team pairs trained RMCP officers with nurses to provide real-time assessments of individuals in crisis and connect clients to support systems.
- The Department of Justice hired an additional SCAN investigator in 2023 and secured funding for an additional permanent investigator in 2024–25. This will increase the ability to investigate and respond to illicit activity, such as drug trafficking in downtown Whitehorse.
- In January 2022, we increased access to Opioid Treatment Services at 405 Alexander by expanding prescriber coverage to two days per week.
  - We expanded opioid medication coverage to include Sublocade in January 2022.
  - In February 2022, we expanded medically indicated Opioid Treatment Services delivery and access through outreach workers and nurses at the Referred Care Clinic to outreach clinics at 405 Alexander and Housing First on 5th Ave.

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- We are strengthening the safer supply program and Opioid Treatment Services team with nine new positions. These positions include one Registered Nurse Supervisor, two Registered Nurses, two Licensed Practical Nurses, one Community Engagement Worker and one Administrative Assistant.
- We have organized three territory-wide public awareness and education campaigns. An anti-stigma campaign developed by the Council of First Nations is expected to be launched in early 2025.
- We have increased access to Withdrawal Management beds by hiring additional Licensed Practical Nurses.
- The seasonal Rapid Access Bike paramedic team launched in summer 2022 to improve Emergency Medical Service and provide faster response in downtown Whitehorse during the summer months. This Yukon EMS program is a partnership with the RCMP and City of Whitehorse.

**Community Outreach:**

- We are supporting First Nations governments to improve health and social services in Yukon communities.
- We are supporting the Council of Yukon First Nations Moccasin Mobile Outreach initiative, which launched February 1, 2024.
  - The Moccasin Mobile Outreach van is operated by the Council of Yukon First Nations and staffed by approximately five Yukon First Nations Community Outreach Workers.
  - The Outreach Workers provide individuals a range of services including referral to shelter services, meal services, RCMP and medical services.

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- Starting January 6, 2025, the outreach van expanded service to seven days a week, from 8pm to 2am.
  - The intention of this service is to remove barriers for street-involved people by meeting individuals where and when they need support.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to collaborating with Moccasin Mobile Outreach to explore ways to support and strengthen their efforts.
- We support Blood Ties Four Direction's initiative to increase distribution of take-home fentanyl testing kits in rural Yukon communities.
  - Blood Ties Four Directions provides harm reduction services in Whitehorse through the Outreach Van, and Mental Wellness Substance Use Services staff working in Whitehorse and communities also provide harm reduction supplies and training.
- Expanding Opioid Treatment Services to communities outside of Whitehorse is an element of the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy.
  - Work has begun on expanding access to Opioid Agonist Therapy through the Carcross Health Centre. Learnings from this initiative will inform expansion to other rural communities.

**Implementation Committee:**

- The Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy implementation committee is formed of project partners who are responsible for carrying out the actions in the strategy.

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- The committee functions as a space for information sharing and collaboration for bringing the actions in the strategy to life.
- We have hired a dedicated Project Manager to coordinate the implementation of the strategy.
- The recommended actions for the committee will be brought forward by the project manager and members will be responsible for providing advice and recommendations to their Deputy Ministers or other organizational leadership.
  - The committee seeks consensus and viable alternative options on actions but does not have formal decision-making authority.
- Membership of the committee is by invitation and will include:
  - Project Manager, Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy;
  - Department of Health and Social Services: Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services, Emergency Medical Services, Population and Public Health Evidence and Evaluation, Health Promotion, Corporate Services, etc.
  - Department of Justice: Community Justice and Public Safety;
  - Council of Yukon First Nations;
  - Blood Ties Four Directions Centre;
  - Thay K'i Anint'l (thigh-KEY-anna-tay);
  - RCMP;
  - Yukon Hospital Corporation; and
  - other community partners, as needed.
- Population and Public Health Evidence and Evaluation has developed a performance measurement framework that will be used to assess implementation.

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- The committee will hold regular meetings every six weeks, with additional meetings called with smaller working groups as needed. Frequency of meetings will be determined and adjusted as needed by the Chair and committee members.

**Oversight Committee:**

- A Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy oversight committee has been formed for additional assessment and oversight of the strategy's implementation. The intention is to provide accountability and oversight for Substance Use Health Emergency-related actions from various perspectives including Council of Yukon First Nations, RCMP and the Government of Yukon.
- The objectives of the oversight committee are to:
  - share information and contribute to the ongoing evaluation of the implementation of the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy;
  - review status updates and Situation Reports from the strategy's Project Manager on the 43 recommended actions;
  - assess the progress of the implementation and coordination of the strategy with a whole of government and territory-wide lens, and provide feedback, guidance and expertise as needed; and
  - identify and consider potential future recommended actions and amend or include these actions in the strategy if appropriate.
- Committee membership currently includes representatives from the Council of Yukon First Nations, RCMP and the departments of Health and Social Services and Justice.

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- The committee also ensures the strategy is coordinated with the federal Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy and several other commitments:
  - Putting People First
  - Territorial Youth Strategy
  - Creating Home: Yukon Housing Corporation Strategic Plan 2023–24 to 2027–28
  - Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan
  - Aging in Place Action Plan
  - Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy
  - Coroner's inquest jury recommendations April 2024
  - LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan

**Managed Alcohol Program:****Speaking notes:**

- The Managed Alcohol Program is a long-term program geared toward supporting individuals who live with severe and treatment-resistant alcohol use disorder.
- A residential Managed Alcohol Program has been developed and opened in Whitehorse on November 6, 2024.
  - This initiative will help protect one of the Yukon's most vulnerable populations and will support public health and resource allocation.



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- The program's 10-bed residential facility is located at 509 Hoge Street in Whitehorse, the former location of the St. Elias group home.
  - Renovations to the facility included an area for alcohol service that allows participants to approach the service area and be provided with predetermined and measured amounts of alcohol based on individualized care plans.
- The Government of Yukon held an open house on October 15, 2024, for community members and businesses to tour the Managed Alcohol Program space, meet the program team and learn about the program's goals and operations before its official launch.
- Managed alcohol programs typically dispense wine, beer or spirits. Participants of the program will have access to medically approved volumes of alcohol, served under staff supervision.
- A participant has a treatment care plan which includes medically assessed dosage and frequency for alcohol consumption.
- Participant care plans are supported by a Social Worker, Registered Nurses and Prescriber based out of the Referred Care Clinic. Individual autonomy is highly encouraged in the program and participants will be expected to participate in doing their own laundry and make their own breakfast and lunch.
  - Assistance and prompts can and will be provided if required.
- A referral package is being developed that is similar to other Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services programs.

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- The Managed Alcohol Program is supported by an interdisciplinary team. While the structure and composition of the teams may change as we evaluate the program, the current team is dedicated to:
  - intake and assessment;
  - support workers; and
  - medical oversight.
- The program is staffed with trained Support Workers, Nurses, Social Workers and a Supervisor.
- Experience with this program will contribute to the design of future sites and inform the phased implementation of smaller managed alcohol programs proposed in the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy.
- Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services has been working with long-term care staff to support residents' access to managed alcohol since December 2022. To support a managed alcohol program within Continuing Care, these four eligibility requirements must be met:
  1. The resident must have a diagnosis of Alcohol Use Disorder.
  2. The resident must be unable to seek other treatment for alcohol dependence.
  3. Alcohol is prescribed by a physician as medically necessary.
  4. The Physician must continue to follow and regularly reassess as necessary.

**Background:**

- This is one of the actions under the initial 14 in the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy. The action proposes to create a 'residential managed alcohol

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program' and considers a phased implementation of smaller or drop-in managed alcohol programs in other communities as needed.

- As part of the 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement, the government committed to opening a Managed Alcohol Program by spring 2024.

### Naloxone:

- Naloxone kits, including nasal naloxone, are available, free of charge, at many locations across our territory, including pharmacies, Kwanlin Dün First Nation Health Centre, Blood Ties Four Directions, 405 Alexander, Emergency Medical Services, Community Health Centres, all Yukon Liquor Corporation locations, and from Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services locations throughout the territory.
- Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services staff in communities also distribute Naloxone kits and have worked with First Nations governments to ensure that kits are widely available.
- Upon request, staff provide Naloxone training to First Nations governments and community partners.

### Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt King

\_\_\_\_\_  
March 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

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### Appendix A: Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy table

	Action	Status	Next Steps/Milestones (updated February 25, 2025)
<b>Prevention</b>			
1	Implement Planet Youth in Yukon communities.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, working with both Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and Selkirk First Nation, and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation will each implement Planet Youth's evidence-based Icelandic Prevention Model.</li> <li>In 2025, the pilot project will start with planning and developing educational modules in collaboration with the Planet Youth team.</li> </ul>
2	Continue to support Yukon communities in creating and implementing community health and wellness plans.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership with CYFN established.</li> <li>Approval to engage has been provided.</li> <li>Planning underway to initiate pre-engagement meetings in communities starting January 2025.</li> </ul>
3	Continue to launch communication and educational campaigns addressing substance use and mental wellness issues.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness and educational campaigns have included Opioid Treatment Services awareness, alcohol medications, 988 outreach support and Rapid Access Counselling. An anti-stigma campaign is expected in early 2025.</li> </ul>
<b>Harm reduction</b>			
4	Implement a Managed Alcohol Program.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The program launched in November 2024.</li> <li>The Managed Alcohol Program is being offered through a 10-bed residential facility located at 509 Hoge Street in Whitehorse.</li> </ul>

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5	Further expand the operating hours of Whitehorse's Supervised Consumption Site.	Complete as of January 7, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Supervised Consumption Site's hours have been expanded from 12pm-9pm, to 10:30am to 9:30pm, seven days per week including statutory holidays.</li> </ul>
6	Further expand access to Opioid Treatment Services, including safer supply and Opioid Agonist Therapy.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental Wellness Substance Use and Social Services have worked to expand medically indicated Opioid Treatment Services' delivery and access through outreach workers and nurses at the Referred Care Clinic in Whitehorse, with outreach clinics at 405 Alexander and Housing First on 5th Ave.</li> <li>In spring 2025 and in collaboration with the Referred Care Clinic, Carcross Health Centre will be supporting clients either through self-referral, opportunistic screening, or referral with suboxone induction and maintenance in community. This program will be assessed and evaluated prior to onboarding further communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Treatment and recovery support</b>			
7	Ensure the availability of Opioid Agonist Therapy wherever Yukoners seek assistance.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans, including procurement, are being developed for a Mobile Opioid Treatment Services Clinic.</li> </ul>
8	Continue to increase support for Yukon First Nations to develop and implement land-based mental health and substance use treatment options.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In December 2023, a Letter of Intent was signed between the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations and federal government for a Yukon First Nations-led treatment centre.</li> <li>Launched in November 2023, the Yukon First Nations Land-Based Healing Fund provided \$3,740,000 in funding to Yukon First Nations</li> </ul>

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			<p>and Yukon First Nation-led organizations so far in 2024–25.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work is underway to raise the capacity collectively to deliver land-based healing by Yukon First Nations groups and governments across the Yukon through this agreement, in addition to funding existing projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Community safety and wellbeing</b>			
9	Continue to invest in preventing gender-based violence and improving services for victims of crime.	Operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement for the expansion of the Sexualized Assault Response Team was completed in December of 2023. An implementation plan is anticipated for 2025.</li> <li>• The Department of Justice has allocated funds from the Canada-Yukon agreement on the National Action Plan to end gender-based violence to: improve transportation for emergency and urgent travel for victims of gender-based violence; establish a coordinated process for addressing high risk intimate partner violence cases; and improve services for child and youth victims of gender-based violence.</li> <li>• In June 2024, in partnership with the federal government and local NGOs, we launched the new Canada Yukon Housing Benefit rent subsidy for people fleeing gender-based violence, which is considered to be a contributing factor in substance use.</li> <li>• The program is administered through Yukon Housing Corporation and will provide more than \$2 million annually to help survivors of gender-</li> </ul>

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			<p>based violence to obtain and maintain safe housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The program is expected to support at least 328 households per year by providing up to \$2,000 per month for the first 12 months, followed by a decreasing benefit for an additional six months.</li> </ul>
10	<p>a) Increase frontline support staffing; and b) create more safe and sober housing options for individuals grappling with substance use issues when transitioning from the criminal justice system back into communities.</p>	<p>a) Complete b) Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Justice is improving supports for those transitioning into the community through reform of the bail system.</li> <li>The department has increased frontline support staffing within Yukon Community Corrections through the addition of two time-limited positions: an Outreach Support Worker was hired in January 2024, and a Clinical Counsellor in June 2024.</li> <li>The two positions work to meet the needs of those transitioning out of the justice system and will travel to communities to provide support to Yukon Community Corrections clients.</li> </ul>
11	<p>Continue to collaborate with Yukon First Nations governments to expand therapeutic courts and other restorative justice approaches in response to substance use-related treatment needs.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Senior Community Engagement Specialist will help identify Yukon First Nations who are interested in developing or expanding therapeutic courts and other restorative justice approaches. The position is currently filled via a Justice staff member and recruitment is ongoing.</li> <li>Existing restorative justice and therapeutic courts' initiatives include addressing impaired driving, substance use treatment, trauma recovery, intimate partner violence prevention programs for men, healing camps at Jackson Lake, the Community Wellness and Domestic</li> </ul>

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			<p>Violence Treatment Court, and other programming in partnership with First Nations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Currently, the Department of Justice is in partnership discussions with Carcross Tagish, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Vuntut Gwitchin to continue exploring new approaches.</li></ul>
12	Continue to support effective and accountable policing and enforcement responsive to community needs and taking into account the Yukon's modern treaty environment.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding for a Senior Negotiator and a Strategic Policy Advisor has been secured through Community Tripartite Agreements and recruitment is ongoing. These positions will support engagement with First Nations regarding First Nation jurisdiction and authority for enforcement of First Nations laws and related interests. A draft engagement plan and submission are in progress.</li><li>• Discussions regarding enforcement are occurring with First Nations at Administration of Justice Agreement tables, and a joint Cabinet and Management Board submission is in development.</li></ul>
13	Expand the capacity of the Mobile Crisis Response Team (Car 867).	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Car 867 pairs trained RMCP officers with Mental Health Nurses to provide real-time assessment of individuals in crisis and connect clients to support systems. Car 867 follows up with calls occurring outside their operational hours if the client provides a phone number or can be located.</li><li>• To expand capacity, the Department of Justice is funding two RCMP officers and Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services is funding and has filled two nursing positions.</li></ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the additional staffing provided by the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy, the program has expanded from Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm to seven days per week, with 10-hour shifts to provide greater coverage during peak need hours.</li> </ul>
14	Increase the Government of Yukon's capacity to investigate and for civil remedies to disrupt the distribution of toxic illicit drugs and organized crime in Yukon communities.	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This action is fulfilled through the existing Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Unit.</li> <li>Currently, the SCAN Unit has signed protocols with 10 Yukon First Nations, with an eleventh protocol expected soon. These protocols provide investigative services in First Nations communities.</li> <li>The SCAN Unit is working with communities to update their protocols.</li> <li>Funding from the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy includes an additional investigator for the SCAN Unit, who was hired in 2023.</li> <li>In 2022, the Minister of Justice committed to a full review of the <i>Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act</i>, which is ongoing.</li> </ul>

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**Government priority:**

- The Government of Yukon is committed to increasing patients' access to primary health care services, and to working with and supporting our physician partners.

**Key messages:**

- A healthy and strong community of primary health care physicians is critical to ensuring Yukoners have access to excellent primary health care services.
- In 2022, we negotiated a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Yukon Medical Association to help increase Yukoners' access to primary care services and foster a strong physician community through a series of innovative initiatives that are in effect until March 31, 2025.
- The Memorandum of Understanding includes the Attachment and Attraction program, which provides financial support to Yukon physicians by subsidizing clinic overhead costs.
- The Department of Health and Social Services and the Yukon Medical Association are preparing for the next round of negotiations on a new Memorandum of Understanding.
- We know that the ways family physicians in the Yukon practice are different than in other jurisdictions.
  - Many family physicians here also provide specialized care such as General Practitioner Oncology, General Practitioner Anesthesia and General Practitioner Obstetrical Services. These are services that are critical to supporting Yukoners to access primary, acute and palliative care closer to home.

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- The increase in specialized care does mean that there are fewer physicians practicing only primary care; this is the same across the country.
  - The demand for a variety of health services and the ways in which that care is provided results in challenges in connecting all Yukoners to a Primary Care Physician but allows Yukoners to access care closer to home.
- We have heard concerns about administrative burdens or ‘red tape’ presenting obstacles for physicians. We are working to ensure our contracts and payment systems are up to date and in line with modern standards.
- As part of the Health Human Resource Strategy, we have provided funding to the Yukon Medical Association to explore the development of a family medicine residency program to help grow the number of physicians learning and working in the territory.
- Addressing the gap in access to primary care providers is a priority for our government and the physician community.
- The Joint Management Committee, consisting of Yukon Medical Association, the Yukon Hospital Corporation and the department have also identified stabilizing primary care as a key priority in their workplan.
- In 2025-26, we budgeted **\$5.6M** (\$5,613,000) to support physician benefit programs, the majority of which are administered by the Yukon Medical Association. The amount may be adjusted once MOU negotiations are completed.

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- In 2023-24, the Yukon was supported by 248 physicians, which includes resident General Practitioners, Specialists, locums and visiting physicians.
- In 2023, there were 33,830 unique patients seen and 477,733 unique patient encounters at care settings in the Yukon.

**Claims and billing:**

- Physician claims are paid in under 60 days for fee-for-service and 30 days for invoices, with the Yukon Medical Association stating this is no longer a matter of concern for its members.
- We have formed a Physician Payment Advisory Committee with the Yukon Medical Association to improve the claims and payment system.
- Our physician community has also identified concerns with current administrative burden including but not limited to billing and payment process, as well as with electronic medical records.
- In Fall 2023, we modified 20 fee codes to allow for auto-payments. The number of claims going to manual assessment has decreased from 30 to 20 per cent. This is an average of 600 claims per week no longer being manually assessed by default.
- Work is also underway to make the system more efficient. We are working with the Physician Payment Advisory Committee to identify and determine additional opportunities to decrease processing times.

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**Contracts:**

## Speaking notes:

- While many physicians are compensated using a fee-for-service model, the Department of Health and Social Services also uses alternative payment models, a mix of alternative payment and fee-for-service with many physicians and specialists.
- Alternative payment models are being used with some resident specialists, community health and wellness centers, the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre, Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services, Population Epidemiology, some Hospital service providers and at the Whitehorse Walk-in Clinic.
- As recommended by physicians, we have also implemented an alternative payment contract model for the inpatient Hospitalist program at Whitehorse General Hospital.
- Our government is committed to providing physician compensation that is fairly and equitably set within the local and national market, and that ensures health system resources are managed effectively to enable budget alignment.
- The Department of Health and Social Services paid \$16.5M in 2023-24 for physician services through contracts.

**Fee-for-Service:**

- Putting People First recommends “working with the Yukon Medical Association through the next contract negotiation cycle to develop alternative payment models to transition away from primarily fee-for-service payment for medical services.”

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- As part of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Yukon Medical Association, we have negotiated fee increases.
  - We continue to work with the Yukon Medical Association and our health system partners to ensure physicians are supported and to explore alternative payment models.
- In 2023-24, the Department of Health and Social Services provided \$33.7M in fee for service payments to physicians, including \$16.1M for hospital-based services.

**Find a Primary Care Provider Program:**

- In spring 2023, we expanded the Find a Primary Care Provider Program to include Nurse Practitioners.
- As of January 24, 2025, a total of 2,167 individuals have been matched to a primary care provider through the program. There are 4,154 people awaiting a match, which represents approximately 11 percent of the Whitehorse population.
- The Yukon government has established primary health care clinics to improve access to health care providers for Yukoners, including:
  - The Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre, which as of August 26, 2024, has received 2,837 eligible applications since its opening in August 2022.
  - The Whitehorse Walk-in Clinic, which opened in December 2023, offers care to Yukoners without a primary care provider. It is staffed by an interdisciplinary team, including two permanent nurse practitioners and two physicians. As of July 31, 2024, the clinic has provided care to over 3,362 patients who would not

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have received care or needed to visit the emergency department at the hospital.

- The Referred Care Clinic, which provides primary care services by referral to vulnerable adults living with mental health and/or substance use issues who do not have a primary care provider.
- Recruitment and retention of health care workers are ongoing challenges, not only in the Yukon but across Canada, particularly in rural and remote areas. We are working with our partners in health and social services to recruit qualified professionals. This is a key part of our Health and Human Resources Strategy to ensure safe and reliable care for Yukoners.
- All communities have access to itinerant physician services through a Community Health Centre. Residents of Dawson City, Watson Lake and Haines Junction are supported by resident physicians.

**Medical Director:**

- Our government and the Yukon Medical Association are working collaboratively to introduce a Medical Director position.
- The Medical Director position is expected to support areas such as community and clinical care issues and our ongoing work to transition to Health and Wellness Yukon.
- This will be an important role that will provide a physician perspective within this work.

**Memorandum of Understanding:**

- The current three-year agreement with the Yukon Medical Association covers the period from April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2025.

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- We expect to begin MOU negotiations with the Yukon Medical Association this spring 2025.
  - Out of respect for the negotiation table we will not respond to any inquiries about ongoing discussions.
- The 2022 Memorandum of Understanding will be in place until a new agreement can be reached.
- The Yukon government acknowledges the significant challenges physicians are facing at Whitehorse General Hospital and the strain on the health care system, particularly for those providing acute and emergency care.
- We recognize the urgency of the situation and are committed to working collaboratively with health care providers to find solutions that ensure a sustainable and effective health care system.
- Primary health care providers are the foundation of our health care system, and their ability to deliver care in hospitals, clinics, and the community is essential to maintaining access to quality health care for all Yukoners.
- Leaders from the Yukon Medical Association, Yukon Hospital Corporation, and the Department of Health and Social Services have already met to discuss the current pressures and will continue to meet regularly to explore all potential options.
- We are actively listening to physicians' concerns, including the impact of staffing shortages on hospital-based care, and we will provide updates following our scheduled meetings to ensure transparency and ongoing collaboration.



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- We appreciate the dedication and commitment of health care providers and remain focused on ensuring that both acute and primary care services remain accessible and sustainable for all Yukoners.

**Physician benefits and Attachment and Attraction program budget**

- The budget for Physician Recruitment and Retention is lower in that particular section of the budget lines in 2025-26 as the expense was moved to the Insured Health Services section of Health and Social Services budget given that much of the allocation is grant payments to the YMA and forms part of physician compensation through the Attachment & Attraction program, negotiated during the last MOU.
- There is no reduction in spending on physician recruitment. In fact we are doing more and developing marketing campaigns to target out of territory and out of country, including US based physicians. We can connect them to the pathway developed with Nova Scotia through our regulator, and we will be focusing on these efforts to attract new physicians to work here in the Yukon.
- Yukon Hospital Corporation has expanded its efforts to recruit for hospital based physician services and we are supporting these efforts, along with those of the Yukon Medical Association.
- The department continues to prioritize physician and Health & Human Resource recruitment and retention, with funding remaining in place to support these efforts.

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- The department remains committed to addressing health human resource challenges and ensuring Yukoners have access to the care they need.

**Physician Count**

- The most recent available physician statistics are available from the Canadian Centre for Health Information (CIHI) and from the Yukon Medical Association (YMA), both providing 2023 statistics.
- According to CIHI's analysis, the Yukon had 168 family medicine physicians per 100,000 population in 2023, placing us first in Canada for supply of family medicine physicians.
  - CIHI reports show the Yukon consistently ranking first in the country for per-capita family medicine physicians between 2010 and 2023.
  - However, only 77 per cent of Yukoners reported having access to a regular health care provider, placing the territory 9<sup>th</sup> of 12 for access.
- The Yukon Medical Association reported having 101 full members in 2023, including 75 family doctors.
- Of these, 38 carry a panel of patients to whom they provide longitudinal primary care. The remainder of the YMA members provide a variety of essential health care services throughout the system.
- YMA data also shows that a high proportion (26 per cent) of its 2023 membership roster was over the age of 55 and nearing retirement.
- The Yukon is also supported by locum physicians who provide periodic or occasional primary and specialized services.

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**Physician Incentives**

- In order to support acute care during a time of high pressure in February and March 2025, we introduced the following measures:
  - A pressure period premium of \$1,000 per day on which physicians provide a shift of hospitalist care, from February 26 to April 1. This is similar to a premium that was introduced over the December holidays to mitigate staffing shortfalls.
  - A travel day stipend for locum physicians visiting the Yukon to provide acute care. This is in addition to typical coverage for their accommodations and travel expenses.
  - A commitment to revise the requirements of the Attachment and Attraction program, to allow physicians to more easily provide both acute and primary care.
- We also committed to new physician recruitment measures, including:
  - Allowing Hospitalists to opt into additional hours of work during periods of short-staffing. Implementing this will take some time.
  - Providing an additional investment for the Yukon Hospital Corporation to expand hospital-based physician recruitment activities to boost efforts to attract additional physicians to the acute care services at Whitehorse General Hospital.
  - In partnership with the Yukon Medical Association, we are committed to revising the MOU to help support recruiting new graduates into both primary and acute care.
- The leadership of the department of Health and Social Services, the Yukon Hospital Corporation and the Yukon Medical Association have jointly been working to formalize the Hospitalist program. This work

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has included participation of physicians to provide the expertise and perspective of those directly involved in the service.

- This work and attention led to the current Hospitalist remuneration, introduction of a 4th and then a 5th line to support patient care, specified hours, considerations for on call, and much consideration and thought on how the Hospitalist program would best support the needs of the Emergency Department, while remaining focused on patient care and physician wellness.

**Physician Recruiter:**

- In 2025-26 the Department of Health and Social Services has allocated \$170K in support of the Yukon Medical Association's physician recruiter position.
  - The same level of support was provided in 2024-25.
- The Physician Recruiter position has been crucial in supporting the hospitalist program through the recruitment of locum physicians.
- Additional funding was also made available to Yukon Hospital Corporation in 2024/25.

**Recruiting Health Professionals from the United States**

- The Yukon government is committed to strengthening health workforce recruitment and retention. We recognize the importance of expanding pathways for qualified health professionals, including those trained in the United States.

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- Yukon government has done the upfront work to establish an agreement with Nova Scotia that allows U.S. trained physicians who obtain credentials in Nova Scotia to be recognized for licensure in the Yukon.
- Nova Scotia is the only jurisdiction in Canada that fully recognizes U.S. trained physicians as equivalent to Canadian-trained doctors. This means that American-trained physicians who obtain licensure in Nova Scotia and want to practice in the Yukon will be recognized.
- We will focus marketing efforts both in Canada and expand this to include USA, as we are seeing in British Columbia.
- The Yukon Registered Nurses Association has a process in place to license U.S. trained nurses without requiring a competency assessment. The timeline for licensure varies by case but generally takes weeks not months.
- The government of Yukon is actively supporting internationally educated health professionals.
  - The Foreign Credential Recognition Navigation Service, launched in January 2025, has engaged 72 individuals, providing pathway information, assessments, referrals, and financial assistance where appropriate.
  - So far, 14 internationally educated Yukoners have been assisted in obtaining credential recognition in their regulated fields, including 12 registered nurses, one licensed practical nurse, and one physiotherapist.
  - One of the first clients has recently passed her Registered Nurse licensure exam.

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- The Department of Health and Social Services, in partnership with the Yukon Hospital Corporation and the Yukon Medical Association, is developing a strategy focusing on recruitment, onboarding, retention, regulations, and education.

**Reducing Administrative Burdens**

- Our government recognizes the challenges that administrative burdens place on physicians, and we remain committed to working collaboratively with the Yukon Medical Association and other stakeholders to address these concerns.
- Our government is also preparing for the next round of negotiations with the YMA. We remain open to further discussions with them on reducing administrative burdens for physicians.
- The Joint Management Committee, which includes representatives from the Department of Health and Social Services, the Yukon Medical Association, and the Yukon Hospital Corporation, has identified stabilizing primary care as one of the priorities. Addressing administrative burden are actions that will support family physicians.
- The Joint Management Committee has identified physician retention as a priority. They are committed to taking the concerns of physicians seriously and are addressing them through negotiations.
- Our Health Human Resources Strategy identifies reducing administrative burden as a priority. Through this strategy, we are streamlining processes to ensure that health professionals can focus on patient care rather than paperwork.

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- We continue to support the Yukon Medical Association through targeted funding for initiatives that reduce administrative barriers, such as better payment systems and advancing software solutions.
- The department has taken concrete steps to modernize physician billing and payment systems, reducing inefficiencies and delays:
  - In Fall 2023, we modified 20 fee codes to allow for auto-payments, decreasing the number of manually assessed claims from 30 per cent to 20 per cent. This means approximately 600 fewer claims per week require manual review.
  - The Physician Payment Advisory Committee is actively identifying additional opportunities to streamline payment processing.
  - As part of the Health Human Resources Strategy, we have finalized a \$450,000 transfer payment agreement with Yukon University to support the development of a Social Work and a Medical Office Assistant program. This program will start its first intake in September 2025, will help produce local human resources to take up medical administrative roles and reduce administrative tasks for physicians and other healthcare providers.
- In addition, we have streamlined health professional licensing to remove unnecessary barriers while maintaining high standards of patient safety. As of November 3, 2024, newly graduated Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and student nurses can register directly to practice in Yukon.

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- A Digital Health Strategy Steering Committee has been established to modernize health records and administrative processes, reducing inefficiencies in healthcare delivery.
- Additionally, our partnership with Nova Scotia supports our efforts in this area. The Yukon Medical Association has already engaged with experts from Nova Scotia, which has made significant progress in addressing administrative barriers for health professionals.
- Instead of creating a new task force, we will continue working through our upcoming negotiations, existing partnerships, committees and initiatives to improve efficiency and support our health care providers in delivering high-quality care to Yukoners.

**Rural Family Medicine Residency Program:**

- We are aware that the Yukon Medical Association passed a significant resolution during their Annual General Meeting on November 1, 2024, calling on the Government of Yukon to dedicate substantial additional funding to develop a Yukon Rural Family Medicine Residency Program in the upcoming fiscal budget.
- We appreciate the Yukon Medical Association's resolution and recognize that a residential medicine program would be an asset to the Territory.
- To date, the Government of Yukon has provided the Yukon Medical Association with \$25,000 over the 2023-24 and 2024-25 fiscal years to explore the viability of establishing a family medicine residency program in the Yukon.



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- We are working with the Yukon Medical Association to explore program options, identify educational partners and determine the program costs.
- These collaborative efforts support the achievement of Action 5.5 of the Health Human Resource Strategy, which explicitly calls for the development and implementation of a Rural Family Medicine Program in the Yukon.

### **Whitehorse Medical Clinic Closure**

- As of April 2025, Whitehorse Medical Clinic made the choice among its practitioners to close its doors.
- All but two of the family practitioners will be moving to new or existing clinics and will continue to provide primary care services to their panel of patients.
  - Two of the physicians have opted to close their practice at their own discretion; we continue to have an open dialogue with these primary care providers.
- Yukoners without a primary care provider are encouraged to pursue available applications processes this includes the Constellation Health Centre Website and the Find a Primary Care Provider program.
- For arising care needs please do not hesitate to visit the Whitehorse Walk-in Clinic.
  - Yukoners are encouraged to visit their local Emergency Department or Community Health Centre as needed.

**Approved by:**

Matt King

March 25, 2025

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

Date Approved

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**Government priority:**

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

**Key messages:**

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

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

**Key accomplishments at a glance:**

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

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

- Permanent nurse hiring: The Yukon Hospital Corporation has successfully hired several permanent nurses who were previously employed by nursing agencies.
- More Yukoners have a care provider: The Whitehorse Walk-in Clinic, the bilingual Centre de santé Constellation Health Centre and the overall increased workforce has given more Yukoners access to primary care providers in the past year.
- Primary Health Care Nurse vacancy rates dropped from 47 per cent in October 2022 to 19 per cent in 2024.
- The number of people attached to a primary care provider at the Constellation clinic was 2,049 as of December 2024.
- In 2023 and 2024, 24 internationally educated professionals in the Yukon have been recruited as nursing home attendants.
- In 2024, the Yukon Hospital Corporation added 11 internationally educated nurses to their staff. They came from the Philippines, Saudi Arabia and India.

**Bursaries:**

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

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

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

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

**CASA Commitment**

- The Department of Health and Social Services allocated a budget of \$1.9M for human resource strategy in 2024/25, to implement initiatives.
- \$140,000 to the Yukon Medical Association, providing funding for a physician recruiter.
  - The Yukon Medical Association's enhanced physician recruitment for locum physicians has resulted in 32 locum hospitalists being secured since January 2024 and 153 locums being booked to cover leave for physicians in Whitehorse in 2024, a 75 per cent increase over the previous year.
- We have a transfer payment agreement of \$450,000 in place with Yukon University to support their development of a Social Work degree and Medical Office Assistant program. The medical office

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assistant program aims to reduce the administrative burden on physicians and nurses.

- \$134,000 has been allocated for University of New Brunswick LPN-RN bridging program tuition support
  - The University of New Brunswick will see two cohorts of a Yukon “Learn Where You Live” Licensed Practical Nurse to Registered Nurse Pathway, which started in September 2024. 17 Yukon LPNs have already started in the first cohort and up to 20 LPNs can be supported in the second cohort, starting in fall 2025.
  - All employers who have students in the program have committed to providing flexible schedules and supporting appropriate leave to the students to be able to attend classes and clinical placements.
- \$280,000 has been allocated for India recruitment and recruitment travel.
  - Officials from the department of Health and Social Services have been meeting regularly and directly with Apollo Hospitals to explore opportunities for recruitment of already educated health professionals and for possible technology support. A framework for these potential partnerships has been developed.
  - The recruitment of Apollo healthcare professionals requires both credential and immigration pathways to be finalized and mentorship and other supports to be in place to ensure successful integration of these recruits.



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- Our primary focus is piloting a recruitment pathway for nurses, initially for positions within the Yukon Hospital Corporation in 2025.
- This program did not spend its budget because the Yukon Nominee Program was unavailable in 2024 and no recruitment could take place.
- \$150,000 for marketing and website development.
  - The department of Health and Social Services partnered with the Yukon Hospital Corporation to develop a central health recruitment website. This new consolidated health and social recruitment website, yukonhealthcareers.ca went live in March 2025.
  - Health and Social Services is running a recruitment-specific marketing campaign with an enhanced look and feel, based on multi-jurisdictional research and beta-testing of various marketing approaches.
  - Testing has concluded that highlighting existing staff and showing what it is like to live and work in the Yukon (and why it is great) is the most effective approach. Engagement with recruitment posts has increased significantly.
  - Health and Social Services has attended many in-person and virtual recruitment events this year, some in combination with the Yukon Hospital Corporation, with more planned for 2025. Our jurisdictional scan has shown that recruitment events continue to be a key point of focus.

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- Total spending for this year is forecasted to be approximately \$50K for marketing work, as the website was developed using in-house resources.
- \$94,000 for retention programming, including \$25K for the Tri-Territorial Health & Social Professionals Conference.
- \$84K has been allocated for contracts for retention, workforce engagement, and overall planning.
- The remaining \$560K is budgeted for staffing to support the HHR programs.
  - This includes an implementation director, nursing manager, HR project manager, policy advisor, modeller, and practicum coordinator.

**Department of National Defence health services:**

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

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

**Foreign Credential Recognition Program:**

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

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- This program is a key part of the \$3.6M funding agreement Economic Development has with the Government of Canada on Foreign Credential Recognition for health workers.
- The Yukon Nominee Program will set aside ten nominations for positions in regulated health care profession in 2025. These are not specific to any employer.
- Regulated health care professionals including nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists and dentists as well as others.
- If, by October 1, 2025, these nominations have not been utilized, additional invitations to apply will be issued from the Expression of Interest pool.
- These set aside will be for regulated health care professions only.
- The Government of Yukon continues to explore all options to recruit much needed health care professionals. While we do not currently use the Yukon Nominee Program to recruit for government positions, we are working to create a pathway for the government of expand it's recruitment options through the program.

**Health Human Resources Strategy and Oversight:**

- The Yukon Health Human Resources Strategy was launched in December 2023.
- The strategy provides a systemic, coordinated and informed roadmap towards a health and social services system that will meet Yukoners' current and future needs.

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- The strategy is built on five key pillars; Retain, Recruit, Plan, Innovate and Learn. These pillars aim to boost the delivery of quality care and services and attract more health professionals to live and work in the Yukon.
- Within these pillars are 25 actions to be implemented jointly by the Government of Yukon, the Yukon Hospital Corporation and our partners on the Health Human Resources Steering Committee.
- The Health Human Resources Steering Committee comprises representatives from Yukon Medical Association, Yukon Registered Nurses Association, Yukon University, First Nations, L'Association Franco-yukonnaise (AFY), Yukon Hospital Corporation and several government departments.
- The Committee is looking at all aspects of Health Human Resources including retention, recruitment, planning, learning and innovation. They provide overall direction and oversight to the implementation work stemming from the strategy.
- The work of this committee aligns with the ongoing collaborative efforts of federal, provincial and territorial governments, which are supported by recent federal investments that identify health human resources as a shared priority.
- Yukon Employee's Union and the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada issued a press release on October 7, 2024, announcing their withdrawal from the Health Human Resources steering committee.
- We will continue to be in contact with the unions and find ways to contribute to improving the health and social services workforce.

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- The steering committee remains dedicated to finding long-term, sustainable solutions for Yukon's healthcare system. This work is essential for ensuring the future of health care services in our territory.
- We are working with our partners to strengthen our collective recruitment efforts by building a centralized recruitment website, increasing and focusing our marketing and attending more recruitment events.

**India internationally educated health professional recruitment:**

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

**Internationally educated health professionals:**

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

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

**Letter of Intent with Nova Scotia:**

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



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- Officials from both jurisdictions have developed a comprehensive set of issues and have partnered and shared information on several of these topics. Collaboration continues at the working level.
- Three officials from Health and Social Services attended the Healthcare Recruitment and Retention Community Conference in Truro, Nova Scotia on April 23– 24, 2024, which was primarily related to recruitment of health sector workers and integration of internationally educated professionals. These learnings are being applied to developing a framework for “Transitions To Practice” for Internationally Educated Nurses and new Canadian nursing graduates. It will be adapted to other professions in the future.
- The Nova Scotia-Yukon pathway offers U.S. physicians a faster route to obtain medical licensure.
  - Nova Scotia is the only province that grants full, unrestricted licensure to American Board-Certified Physicians without requiring recognition from the College of Family Physicians Canada or Royal College.
  - There is no requirement for the physician to reside in Nova Scotia or to state an intention to practice there.
  - Physicians must demonstrate eligibility to work in Canada but are otherwise issued a full license without restrictions.
- Once licensed in Nova Scotia, physicians are eligible for licensure in Yukon through the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- An operational relationship with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia is established for collaboration, paving the

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way for US-trained physicians to register in NS and subsequently be licensed in the Yukon.

- Community Services works alongside regulators and government officials to manage the process, ensuring that physicians intending to practice in Yukon can navigate registration efficiently.
- We are also in contact with officials in the province to explore options for a more efficient physician licensing arrangement for Yukon-bound doctors.

**Licensing:**

- As of November 3, 2024, newly graduated Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners, as well as student nurses can register directly to practice in the Yukon. Pathways for nurses to work in the Yukon have opened with the proclamation of the *Amendment to the Registered Nurses Profession Act*, which was assented to last fall.
- Internationally educated nurses can also apply directly to register to practice in the Yukon. This includes those who may already be or live here but are working in other fields.
  - Under the old legislation, nurses and nurse practitioners were required to be registered in another Canadian jurisdiction before they could apply to work in the Yukon. With the amendments to the *Registered Nurses Profession Regulation* this extra step is no longer required.
- The Registrar of Medical Practitioners actively participates in national and cross-jurisdictional organizations and initiatives aimed at harmonizing and streamlining licensing pathways.

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- We recognize that nurses are fundamental to a high-functioning healthcare system.
- Our goal is to minimize any administrative burden that draws resources away from care while ensuring that health professionals are appropriately regulated, and Yukoners have access to safe, high-quality health care.

**LPN-RN bridging:**

- The Government of Yukon has an agreement with the University of New Brunswick for two cohorts of a Yukon “Learn Where You Live” Licensed Practical Nurse to Registered Nurse Pathway who started in September 2024.
- Seventeen Yukon LPNs have started this pathway in the first cohort and up to 20 Licensed Practical Nurses could be supported in the second cohort starting fall 2025.
- Through this pathway the first set of Licensed Practical Nurses are expected to graduate with their degree in Nursing and be eligible to write their Registered Nurse licensing exam in summer of 2027. The second group will graduate in summer 2028.
- This program supports existing Yukon Licensed Practical Nurses who are already committed to the territory and working in the system to obtain their next level of education without leaving the Yukon.
- The program will incorporate classroom, Virtual Reality clinical simulation and in-person clinical learnings throughout.
- The University of New Brunswick program is cutting edge in Canada using technology to support virtual learning.

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- Yukon University is exploring options for a Yukon based nursing degree program while these classes commence.

**Yukon University partnerships:**

- We are supporting Yukon University to enhance this program to better meet the needs of Yukoners and deliver a more locally based program as a Yukon University degree program.
- We are working with Yukon University to expand programming to support Yukoners to pursue health-related careers.
- The Department of Health and Social Services has a transfer payment agreement of \$450,000 in place with Yukon University to support their development of a Social Work degree and Medical Office Assistant program.
- Yukon University is exploring options and developing a proposed budget for a partnered Yukon-based nursing degree program.
- The Government of Yukon funds Yukon University to offer a Practical Nurse Diploma.
- Yukon University currently offers, in partnership with the University of Regina, a Bachelor of Social Work degree.
- Yukon University offers a Health Care Assistant program which provides Yukoners with the skills needed to be front-line caregivers.
- Since the beginning of 2023, Continuing Care has supported more than 10 staff in moving from Nursing Home Attendants into Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse positions. Additionally, 10 staff members are currently preparing for the National Council Licensure Examination this year.

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- We are supporting Yukon University to offer a Medical Office Assistant program in 2025 with the intent to lower the administrative burden on all health professionals in the long term.
- Yukon University's Board of Governors approved the University to pursue a nursing degree program.

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt King

\_\_\_\_\_  
April 7, 2025

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

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**Recommended response:**

- The existing Nisutlin Bay bridge was constructed in 1953 by the Department of National Defence and crosses the Nisutlin Bay at kilometre 1,243 along the Alaska Highway.
- This is the longest bridge along the Alaska Highway within the Yukon, spanning 584 metres or 1916 feet.
- The replacement project is in its third year and the construction is being completed by Graham Infrastructure LP.
- This project provides a significant positive economic outcome for the territory, local businesses, and the community of Teslin.
- The new bridge will be wider and designed to accommodate modern traffic, including larger commercial vehicles. It will also improve safety through better sightlines, wider lanes, and improved pedestrian and cyclist access.
- The new bridge is expected to be open to traffic in fall 2025.

**Additional response: Yukon Motel Access and Parking**

- The Yukon Motel is situated on Nisutlin Bay, along the Alaska Highway, and is a long-standing business providing accommodation, fuel, and additional services to Yukoners and the travelling public.
- The motel operates their business adjacent to the highway-right-of-way.
- Highways and Public Works is working with the owners of the Yukon Motel to provide more clarity about the new bridge alignment.

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- We continue to prioritize safety during the construction of the replacement bridge and in the design of the new bridge and highway access.
  - Between 2019 and 2022, Highways and Public Works conducted an engagement with the Teslin community and local businesses, including the Yukon Motel, regarding the design of the highway alignment extending from the bridge replacement.
  - The Teslin community and business owners were given the option to provide input on their preferred highway alignment option.
  - Feedback from the Yukon Motel owners was also accounted for and changes were made to the design based on their input.
  - The current design has not diverged from this agreement presented to the Teslin community and business owners in 2021. The design benefits for the new highway alignment, include:
    - maintaining the highway elevation;
    - preserving the existing highway footprint along the grass-covered shoulder;
    - improving access to the Yukon Motel to meet code requirements with safe grading;
    - enhancing the embankment and drainage system; and,
    - ensuring a safe entrance.
  - Our government is committed to ensuring that the replacement bridge meets the needs of the community, while adhering to the safety requirements and applicable design codes.

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**Additional response: Progress To-date**

- Milestones completed to-date include:
  - the construction and use of the temporary trestle bridge and cofferdams;
  - the construction of 6 piers and 2 abutments, involving the driving of 58 permanent piles with a combined length of 1,801 meters, and the pouring of 3,000 cubic meters of concrete between the piers and abutments;
  - the installation of 52 girders, totaling 1,935 meters in length;
  - the installation of 32 bearings, comprising 4 bearings per abutment and pier; the placement of 504 precast panels on the bridge deck;
  - the pouring of the bridge deck ends and the infill between the precast panels totaling 373 cubic meters of reinforced concrete;
  - the installation of utility conduit;
  - the placement of 16,000 cubic meters of preload material on both the south and north abutments; and
  - the construction of fish offsetting areas on the south and north sides.

**Additional response: Winter Work progress**

- A smaller crew worked on the project during the 2024-25 winter season, focusing on:
  - removal of the trestle spans;



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- construction of curb formworks in preparation for the spring pour;
- removal of the temporary false deck (access); and
- preparation for the 2025 construction season.

**Additional response: 2025-26 Work Plan**

- Work in the 2025-26 fiscal year includes:
  - complete removal of the trestle piles;
  - construction of cast in place concrete curbs, and approach slabs;
  - installation of deck waterproofing;
  - installation of bridge drainage pipes, and deck drains;
  - installation of luminaires on the bridge;
  - installation of bridge expansion joints;
  - installation of bridge guardrails, bicycle railing and pedestrian fences;
  - installation of precast concrete roadside and median barriers;
  - completion of electric work;
  - production and placement of armoring rip rap;
  - construction of snowmobile bench;
  - completion of the north and south earthworks and road-related works, culverts and spillways;
  - opening of the new bridge to traffic; and
  - beginning the demolition process of the existing bridge.

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**Additional response: Occupational Health and Safety**

- The occupational health and safety for the project is the responsibility of the prime contractor and compliance with the rules, regulations, and practices required by *Occupational Health and Safety Act* or any other applicable health and safety legislation.
- Legislative requirements are followed by the prime contractor to ensure the safety of the site. These include:
  - develop, maintain, and supervise for the duration of the work a comprehensive health and safety program;
  - ensuring that all employers including subcontractors, other contractors, and all personnel working at or attending the project site comply with OHSA requirements;
  - providing a health and safety orientation session and information as per the health and safety plan; and
  - ensuring the health and safety of all workers of all employers at the place of work.

**Additional response: Project Cost and Schedule**

- The construction contract with Graham Infrastructure LP was originally awarded for \$159.96 million.
- Infrastructure Canada will contribute \$41.25 million through the *Building Canada Fund* and Transport Canada will contribute \$52.5 million through the *National Trade Corridors Fund*.
- The amended *Fisheries Act Authorization* resulted in a change order that increased the construction contract by \$23.89 million to a total of \$183.8 million to accommodate for additional work and services

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required. It also compensated the contractor for a delay in construction commencement and a 6-day extension.

- The Government of Yukon remains committed to transparency, responsible fiscal management, and delivering critical infrastructure that meets the needs of Yukoners now and into the future.
- The Five-Year Capital Plan spending is expected to be \$45–\$50 million for 2024–25 and \$35–\$40 million for 2025–26.
- \$11.72 million was requested in this 2024–25 supplementary 2 budget to address soil conditions at the project site.
- Due to the timing of the Supplemental Budget submission, Highways and Public Works also included additional work in its forecast to accommodate the potential for winter work.
- Contractor progress over the winter did not require the full \$11.72 million allocation and some work will be deferred into 2025–26.
- We continue to work collaboratively with the contractor to manage any additional works that might arise throughout construction.
- Project contingencies are used as needed to manage within the existing contract value.
- As with any major capital project, the potential exists for future change orders to address changes to scope, timelines or budget pressures.
- Now in its final year of construction, the Nisutlin Bay Bridge replacement project is progressing toward completion.
- The fall 2025 plan to switch traffic to the new bridge remains unchanged.

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**Additional response: Quality Assurance**

- As with any large infrastructure project, frequent inspections are a regular part of construction monitoring.
- Throughout the project, the Contractor is responsible for developing and following an approved Quality Control plan.
- To check quality control the Government of Yukon has a fulltime team of onsite technicians and engineers who are based in Teslin to provide Quality Assurance.
- Inspections are happening at every step of the project and as defects or non-conformances are found they are rectified following an approved protocol to ensure compliance with the project specifications.
- It is also important to note that deficiency correction during the work is a normal part of large construction projects.

**Additional response: Benefits for Local Businesses (Sub-contracting)**

- The contractor, Graham infrastructure LP, is responsible for the hiring of sub-contractors for the project. The Government of Yukon does not direct the contractor, on any sub-contracting opportunities.
- For supplementary project procurements related to the bridge, the Yukon government works with Teslin Tlingit Council to identify opportunities for Teslin Tlingit Council citizens and businesses.
- Sub-contractors perform work such as electrical, logistics, earthworks, quarry development, materials procurement, and environmental monitoring.

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- There are several Teslin and Yukon businesses that are working as sub-contractors on the project.
- As part of the monthly progress claim submission process the contractor provides a summary of the progress on the involvement of Yukon First Nation businesses and local suppliers.
- The Government of Yukon does not publicly comment on the values or terms of these sub-contracts, as this is proprietary information.
- However, the project team actively works with the contractor and Teslin Tlingit Council to monitor their progress toward their proposed targets.

#### **Additional response: First Nations Participation Commitments**

- The Government of Yukon meets with Teslin Tlingit Council to share information on the implementation of the Nisutlin Bay Bridge project.
- The Contractor is required to track Teslin Tlingit Citizens and Yukon First Nations Citizens participation hours throughout the project and to report monthly to the Yukon government.
- The Yukon government works with the Teslin Tlingit Council to review the contractor's progress toward the targets.
- As the project is over half-way completed, the contractor has met 64 per cent of the target employment hours for Teslin Tlingit Council Citizens on the project.
- The Government of Yukon has also provided funding to the Teslin Tlingit Council to support their engagement in the project.
- These agreements range from project planning, implementation support, a community liaison position, fisheries initiatives and

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environmental baseline studies, wood fibre recovery, and artwork for the new bridge.

- Supporting Teslin Tlingit Council's engagement on the project provides a unique opportunity to benefit Teslin Tlingit Council Citizens, distinct from the contracting and employment opportunities available for Teslin Tlingit Council Citizen-owned businesses.

#### **Additional response: Environmental Protection**

- From the outset, environmental protection has been a major component of the project.
- Under the project's *Fisheries Act* Authorization, we are required to establish a sonar enumeration project to make sure that the construction work is not negatively impacting fish populations or migrations.
- The project helps researchers with Teslin Tlingit Council count Chinook salmon passing through the Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area.
- This important natural area is along the migration route for Chinook salmon returning to the Nisutlin and Wolf rivers and their tributaries.
- This work is essential to monitoring salmon migration numbers and making sure the fish reach their spawning grounds while a new bridge is being built in the Nisutlin Bay.
- The contractor and the Yukon government meet weekly to discuss any environmental issues on the project, such as underwater noise, water quality or spill reports, and mitigations are confirmed.

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Public Works

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- Environmental site inspections with the contractor, the Yukon government and environmental consultants are also conducted weekly to provide a high degree of environmental oversight.
- The Yukon government has also retained an environmental consultant based onsite to monitor construction activities.
- An Environmental Technical Working Group meets every two weeks, composed of representatives from Teslin Tlingit Council, the Yukon government and the contractor to review plans in advance of work commencing.
- Through this working group, we are able to address many environmental concerns of Teslin Tlingit Council and the community before they arise during construction.

**Additional response: Granular Material**

- This project will use over 100,000 cubic metres of aggregate for the various components. This does not include asphalt.
- All the granular material for roadwork is locally sourced.
- However, the Nisutlin Bay Bridge Project will require approximately 2,400 cubic metres of coarse aggregate for the cast-in-place concrete being used.
- This small amount of coarse aggregate for concrete work came from Whitehorse.
- The aggregate being used in this concrete has specific requirements to ensure the structural integrity of the bridge.
- There are very limited sources of aggregate in the Yukon that meet this requirement which is why aggregate from the Whitehorse area

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### Nisutlin Bay Bridge Replacement

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will be used for this specific portion of the project, which equates to less than 2.5 per cent of the aggregate needed.

#### **Additional response: Community Wellness**

- The contractor has a dedicated liaison for their workers and community members to contact, with any health and wellness issues pertaining to the project they may have.
- The prime contractor is required to meet all legislative requirements for occupational health and safety, including providing a framework to prevent workplace violence and harassment as well as to support psychological injury.
- The Community Wellbeing Working Group, with representatives from Teslin Tlingit Council and the Government of Yukon meet every two weeks to work through issues of wellbeing that might be arising for Teslin Tlingit citizens, and community members in general, from the project.

#### **Additional response: Interesting Project Details**

- The replacement of the Nisutlin Bay Bridge is a large, complex and challenging project, posed by its remote location and harsh weather conditions.
- As this existing bridge is the longest bridge along the Alaska Highway, this project is the largest bridge replacement project in Yukon history.
- The new bridge will ensure improved safety and accessibility, especially given the anticipated wear and tear from decades of service and heavy transport use.



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- The new bridge will reflect modern engineering while respecting the cultural and historical context of the region.
- Once completed, the new bridge will continue to serve as a critical link on the Alaska Highway, supporting the region's economy by facilitating the movement of goods and people. It's a vital lifeline for the community of Teslin and travellers heading to and from Alaska.
- These aspects highlight the bridge's importance not just as a piece of infrastructure but also as a cultural and historical landmark in the Yukon.
- This replacement project is a significant investment in Yukon's future infrastructure while balancing the historical and environmental factors tied to this iconic bridge.

**Additional Response: Fun Facts**

- Approximately 3,500 cubic metres of concrete is being used for the bridge. That's nearly 1.5 Olympic-sized swimming pools!
- Material for the new bridge includes concrete for the piers and deck, steel for girders and structural components, and wood for the temporary structures like the temporary bridge deck.
- There are 52 girders in total, making the bridge very strong and stable. They are made from weathering steel, which develops a rust-like appearance after exposure to protect against corrosion.
- The new bridge has 6 piers and 2 abutments. Piers support the middle sections of the bridge and are in the water, while abutments connect the bridge to the land.

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### Nisutlin Bay Bridge Replacement

Highways and  
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- The piers each contain around 410 cubic metres of concrete and 71 tons of steel. Each abutment has about 235 cubic metres of concrete and 22 tons of steel.
- 

#### **Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Nisutlin Bay Bridge is a landmark feature in Teslin and a key part of the Alaska Highway transportation infrastructure.
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#### **Background:**

- Maintenance costs of the existing bridge were between \$0.5 to \$1 million per year.
- In spring 2019, the Government of Yukon and the Teslin Tlingit Council signed a project charter to work together to design and build the replacement bridge.

#### **Yukon First Nation Procurement Policy**

- The Nisutlin Bay Bridge Replacement project was tendered shortly after the Yukon First Nation Procurement Policy was implemented.
- This project is in its third year and Teslin Tlingit Council continues to work with the Yukon government to make improvements to the implementation of the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy to help it meets its original intent.
- The Government of Yukon is grateful to Teslin Tlingit Council for their ongoing participation in the implementation of the Nisutlin Bay Bridge project.
- We continue to look at continuous improvement and incorporating the lessons learned from all projects into recommendations to strengthen the policy moving forward.

#### **Authorizations**

- The Water Licence for the project was issued on August 31, 2022.
- The Fisheries Act Authorization was issued on October 17, 2022.

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## Nisutlin Bay Bridge Replacement

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- We received the amendment to the Water License on February 24, 2023, and a variance to the authorization on December 6, 2022, and another variance on March 8, 2023.
- Due to the collaborative work undertaken by the contractor, YG and TTC to address the unforeseen restrictions of the FAA and Water Licence, the project is progressing well, and all piles have been installed in compliance with the Fisheries Act Authorization and Water Licence.

Approved by:

T. Allen

March 18, 2025

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

**Session Briefing Note****TAB #13****Spring 2025****Yukon-BC Grid Connect**Yukon Development  
Corporation**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.

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### 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

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### 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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**TAB #13****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

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2025****Atlin**Yukon Development  
Corporation

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**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon remains committed to the Atlin Hydro Expansion Project.
- As a First Nation led renewable hydro project, the Yukon government believes that Atlin Hydro Expansion Project provides the Yukon's nearest term opportunity to make progress towards filling the territory's critical winter energy gap.
- The Yukon's challenges of winter energy are well known as are the reconciliation and environmental benefits of the project.
- The Atlin Hydroelectric Expansion Project is not included in the 2025-2026 Budget as the [project's construction permits have not yet been issued](#).
- Yukon government remains committed to the project and is ready to provide funding if the following conditions are met:
  - Receipt of all permits and authorizations required for construction
  - Execution of the credit agreement with the Canadian Infrastructure Bank
  - Conclusion of consultation by all governments
  - Securing the full cost of construction.
- We congratulate the Proponent and the Taku River Tlingit First Nation for achieving the important milestone of a Joint Clan [Mandate](#) Resolution in support of the project in July 2024.

**Additional response:**

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2025****Atlin**Yukon Development  
Corporation

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- As the largest Indigenous proponent-led energy project that the Yukon has been involved with to date, it is teaching us many lessons that will be applied as additional projects are advanced to fill the widening renewable energy gap.
- We applaud the Proponent and the Taku River First Nation for their efforts to get the Project to this state of readiness and we are committed to strong and enduring partnerships with First Nations proponents, governments, and communities in the energy economy in the Yukon.
- As the Project continues through the development phase, there is continual due diligence being done to ensure that the Project will bring the expected benefits to Yukoners in a manner that advances climate change goals, and is also affordable and reliable.
- The Proponent estimates a funding gap of \$86.4 million [is needed to fully fund construction](#).

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- There has been extensive media coverage of the Project, and the Opposition has raised the Project regularly in the Legislature.
  - Budget 2024-2025 does not identify specific funds for the Project, which is a change from Budget 2023-2024.
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**Background:**

- The Proponent (Taku Homeland Energy Limited Partnership) plans to expand the existing Atlin hydro facility by leveraging the water storage capability of Surprise



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Yukon Development  
Corporation

Lake and connect to the Yukon grid with a 69 kV transmission line from the power plant in Atlin, BC to Jakes Corner in the Yukon. The line will follow the Atlin Highway right-of-way for the majority of the route.

- The total cost of the project based on 90% design for generation and construction ready design for the transmission line as of October 2024, is estimated at \$315 million, which includes the \$86.4 million funding gap.
- Cost distribution can be considered 75% to generation, 15% to transmission and substations, and 10% to interconnection with YEC/ATCO.
- As outlined in Table 1 below, the total cost of the project will be influenced by the level of contingency required and the interest rate used in the Canadian Infrastructure Bank credit agreement.

Table 1: 2024 Repricing Results (\$ millions)

Construction Costs	\$271	
Contingency	\$44	
Max. Required for Construction (CIB interest rate 1%)		\$315

- There is currently \$228.9 million notionally committed from the Government of Canada, Yukon government, Canadian Infrastructure Bank, and Taku River Tlingit First Nation equity.
- \$86.4 million is required to close the funding gap, assuming a CIB interest rate of 1%

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Table 2: Sources and Uses of Funding to March 31, 2024 (\$ millions)

		Allocated	Spent	Available
NRCan	Smart Renewable Electrification Pathways	\$50	\$5	\$45
NRCan	Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities	\$6.1	\$2.9	\$3.2
ECCC	Low Carbon Economy Fund	\$32.2	-	\$32.2
CANNOR	IDEANorth	\$6	\$6	-
Can	Investment Tax Credits	\$12.5	\$0	\$12.5
CIRNAC		\$6.8	\$6.8	-
	Canada Total	\$101.1	\$20.7	\$80.4
YG		\$50	\$2	\$48
BC		\$20	\$12	\$8
CIB	Loan	Up to \$80	-	Up to \$80
THELP	Equity	\$3.2	\$3.2	-
	All Funders Total	\$266.8	\$37.9	\$228.9

Table 3: Project costs over time (\$ millions)

Budget Year	Interest Rate	Completion	Project Cost	Funding Gap
2021/22	1%	2024	\$204	\$0*
2022/23	1%	2025	\$254	\$0*
2023/24	3%	2026	\$360	\$106
2024/25	1%	2028	\$315	\$86.4

\*The project had notionally filled the full funding gap in 2022/23. Costs associated with delay in receiving funding, inflation of construction costs as a result of the Covid-19

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2025****Atlin**Yukon Development  
Corporation

pandemic, changes in interest rates, no new funding, and less favourable foreign exchange rates resulted in the emergence of a funding gap.

- YDC has provided the Proponent with \$2 million in 2023/2024 to support advancing geotechnical and engineering design of the transmission line.
- Prior to the Transfer Payment Agreement expiring, a TPA Amendment was agreed to that expands the permitting-related expenses that could be supported through the TPA. The Proponent expended the full \$2 million and YDC has received all required reporting.

**Approved by:**Daniel Carrick-SpechtMarch 6, 2025

a/President, Yukon Development Corporation

Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

### Reducing Government of Yukon Emissions

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Spring 2025  
Environment

#### Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon continues to work towards reducing the territory's greenhouse gas emissions and building a more climate resilient Yukon now and for generations to come.
- We know that this work needs to happen in partnership with Yukoners but also requires a shift in how the Government of Yukon operates and impacts the Yukon's environment.
- The Government of Yukon tracks greenhouse gas emissions from our internal operations and evaluates how climate change may be impacting government-owned infrastructure.
- In 2022, the government generated 48.7 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.
- Of this total, the Government of Yukon's departments emitted about three quarters of this, at about 33.3 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, with government corporations and Yukon University making up the remaining quarter.

#### Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon's emissions are largely the result of heating and powering buildings, operating road maintenance equipment and fleet vehicle use.
- Given this, the Department of Highways and Public Works represents the largest share of emissions, due to the significant role they play in maintaining our buildings, roads, airports, and fleet vehicles.
- The Department of Highways and Public Works also leads a one-government approach to reduce emissions from Government of Yukon

## Session Briefing Note

### Reducing Government of Yukon Emissions

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Spring 2025  
Environment

buildings by improving energy efficiency and installing renewable energy systems.

- Investments in buildings are not tied to any one department and are prioritized where they will make the most impact in reducing emissions.
- The Government of Yukon also provides homes, healthcare, and electricity for Yukoners. These areas also represent a high portion of the Government of Yukon's emissions.

#### **Third response (actions):**

- To reduce emissions from our operations, we have, among others:
  - Finished 31 retrofits to Government of Yukon buildings to improve efficiency and reduce emissions;
  - Completed 112 energy assessments in high-emitting Government of Yukon buildings. 36 of those were completed in 2024;
  - Installed a biomass heating system at Elijah Smith School and invested in a district heating system expansion at Whitehorse Correctional Centre connecting Takhini Haven and Young Offenders Facility; and
  - Installed solar and battery energy storage projects at the Klondike and Ogilvie highway maintenance camps and started work on solar projects at Blanchard and Tuchitua highway maintenance camps.
- The Government of Yukon will continue to invest in reducing the impact that our operations have on the territory's emissions and climate change.

## Session Briefing Note

ECO TAB #19

**Spring 2025**

### Reducing Government of Yukon Emissions

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Environment

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Emissions from the Government of Yukon have increased since 2010 as the Yukon's population grows.
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**Background:**

- Every year, the Department of Environment publishes a report on the Government of Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions alongside the Our Clean Future annual report and the Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Yukon report.

**Approved by:****Dennis Berry**

Deputy Minister of Environment

**February 5, 2025**

Date approved

# Session Briefing Note

## Reducing Government of Yukon Emissions

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Environment

**Appendix A: Total Government of Yukon emissions**

Organization type	2022 emissions (ktCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Departments	33.3
Corporations	13.0
Yukon University	2.5

**Appendix B: 2022 emissions by department\*.**

Department**	Building emissions (ktCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Government Fleet, waste and refrigerants (ktCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Total (ktCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Community Services	0.8	1.9	2.7
Economic Development	0	<0.1	<0.1
Education	7.3	0.1	7.4
Energy, Mines and Resources	0.1	0.2	0.3
Environment	0.1	0.7	0.8
Health and Social Services	4.1	0.4	4.5
Highways and Public Works	6.8	8.8	15.6
Justice	0.9	<0.1	0.9

## Session Briefing Note

### Reducing Government of Yukon Emissions

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Environment

Tourism and Culture	0.1	<0.1	0.1
Unknown***	0.5	0.3	0.8
		DEPARTMENT TOTAL	33.3

\* The total emissions listed in the Government of Yukon greenhouse gas emissions report do not include leased buildings, as the Government of Yukon does not have access to that data. Therefore, not all departments listed in this table will have emissions linked to their operations.

\*\* In many instances, Departments have limited control over energy use, and therefore greenhouse gas emissions, in their assigned buildings. Departments are focused on providing programming out of their assigned government buildings and thus have limited control over reducing building emissions. However, the Department of Highways & Public Works is leading the greenhouse gas reduction initiatives for all Government of Yukon buildings by delivering building energy retrofit and renewable energy projects.

\*\*\* [A small percentage of emissions are not allocated to a specific department. These come from buildings used by multiple program areas and vehicles not assigned to a specific department.](#)



## Session Briefing Note

### Project Approval Timelines

**Spring 2025**  
Energy, Mines and  
Resources

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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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

#### Additional response:

- We are working to restart consultations with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun that were paused following the heap leach failure at the Eagle Gold mine.

## Session Briefing Note

### Project Approval Timelines

**Spring 2025**  
Energy, Mines and  
Resources

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- 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.

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#### Context — this may be an issue because:

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

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#### 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.
- 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

## Session Briefing Note

### Project Approval Timelines

**Spring 2025**  
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Resources

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.
- The table below 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	
<b>Placer Class 1 Notifications</b>	126*	282	415	332	353	205	37
<b>Quartz Class 1 Notifications</b>	53*	130	128	82	96	76	54
<b>Placer Class 3 and 4 – Decision Documents</b>	68	55	50	62	39	57	61
<b>Quartz Class 3 and 4 Decision Documents</b>	15	20	19	16	6	4	108
<b>Quartz Mining Land Use Approvals</b>	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.

## Session Briefing Note

### Project Approval Timelines

**Spring 2025**  
Energy, Mines and  
Resources

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- 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.

**Approved by:**

Sierra van der Meer

March 5, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister\_\_\_\_\_  
Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

**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

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**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

**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

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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

**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

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staking on March 28, 2019. This withdrawal is in place until April 30, 2026.

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**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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Spring 2025

Mineral Staking Prohibitions  
in Response to Litigation

Executive Council Office  
and Energy, Mines and  
Resources

- 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



### United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Executive Council  
Office / Justice

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#### Recommended response:

- Our government has offered to engage with Yukon First Nations regarding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its potential application in the Yukon.
- There are important matters to consider with respect to the Declaration given our modern treaty context, unique political and legal landscape, other commitments and ongoing discussions with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups.

#### Additional Response:

- Reconciliation is a key and ongoing priority for our government.
- We are guided on our path of reconciliation by the foundational document *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, which set out a vision for reconciliation and Indigenous self-determination in the Yukon.
- Our approach to reconciliation is characterized by:
  - implementing modern treaties and upholding our obligations to Yukon First Nations, the Tetlit Gwich'in, and the Inuvialuit;
  - negotiating agreements related to Yukon First Nations' self-governance, such as those involving the administration of justice;
  - negotiating enduring agreements with First Nations without treaties;
  - advancing joint priorities at the Yukon Forum; and
  - collaborating with Indigenous governments on key legislative initiatives, such as the development of new minerals legislation.

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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Governments of Canada (Canada), British Columbia (BC) and the Northwest Territories (NWT) have affirmed in legislation that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the "Declaration") applies to their laws. There may be interest in whether the Government of Yukon (YG) will enact similar legislation.
- The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement seeks "consent from Yukon First

## United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Executive Council  
Office / Justice

Nation Chiefs to initiate a discussion with the Premier and the Leader of the Yukon NDP on [the Declaration]". The Chiefs asked for the NDP Leader to approach them separately and deferred consent on a discussion.

### Background:

- The Declaration was adopted by the United Nations in 2007 and endorsed by Canada in 2016. It is a non-binding guidance document that speaks to the individual and collective rights of Indigenous peoples and considers their specific cultural, language, identity, religion, health, education, economic and social circumstances.
- Canada brought into force the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* in 2021 and released an action plan in 2023 for federal implementation of the Act.
- The federal Act provides for joint priority-setting between Canada and Indigenous Peoples; it does not enact any of the 46 Articles of the Declaration into Canadian law, nor bind the provinces and territories.
- Although the Declaration has been raised at multiple Yukon Forum meetings, there has been no consensus to prioritize working jointly on a Yukon approach to it.
- YG has made related commitments with respect to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and *Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy*, both of which reference the Declaration.

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey  
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2025 01 30

Mark Radke

2025-01-30

**First Nation Court Case Updates**Executive Council  
Office

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**Recommended response – Kudz Ze Kayah / BMC Minerals:**

- In December 2024, the Yukon Court of Appeal released its decision on the appeal filed by Ross River Dena Council regarding the proposed Kudz Ze Kayah mine.
- The Court of Appeal found that the governments of Yukon and Canada failed to consult the Kaska First Nations on the economic feasibility of the proposed mine before issuing a Decision Document which allowed the project to enter the regulatory phase.
- Other challenges raised by Ross River Dena Council regarding the January 2024 Yukon Supreme Court ruling were dismissed.
- The governments of Yukon and Canada have now reached out to Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation to discuss a proposed consultation process regarding the economic feasibility of the project.

**Recommended response – Michelle Creek Judicial Review:**

- The Supreme Court of Yukon has dismissed the Yukon government's request for a Judicial Review of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board's recommendation on the Michelle Creek project in northern Yukon because the recommendation is not binding.
- Our government asked for the Judicial Review in the hope that it would provide assurance to all parties involved in YESAA assessments that recommendations will be made in an informed and unbiased manner and in accordance with YESAA and any applicable land use plan.
- This was not an action against Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in or the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun. Rather, the Yukon government was asking the court to provide clarity regarding the Board's decision-making processes.
- The court decision confirmed that the Decision Body for a proposed project has the authority to decide if it can proceed to the regulatory phase, even if it is of the view that the YESAA recommendation is flawed.

### First Nation Court Case Updates

Executive Council  
Office

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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- Court cases involving Yukon First Nations generally receive a high level of media interest.
- The appeal of the Kudz Ze Kayah decision received some media attention when it was heard in September 2024 and when the decision was released in December 2024.
- The judicial review of the Michelle Creek case received media attention when it was heard in November 2024, and when the decision was released in March 2025.

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#### Background:

##### *Ross River Dena Council v. AG (Canada), AG (Yukon), and BMC Minerals.*

- In October 2022, Ross River Dena Council (RRDC), on its own behalf and on behalf of the Kaska Nation, filed a petition for judicial review of a decision by the governments of Canada (Canada) and Yukon (YG) to vary a decision made by the Executive Committee of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) related to the Kudz Ze Kayah mining project proposed by BMC Minerals.
- RRDC alleged that decision makers did not adequately consider their June 14, 2022, submissions and failed to fulfill the duty to consult on the project.
- On January 2, 2024, the Supreme Court of Yukon released its decision, which clarified how the territorial and federal governments must conduct consultation when there may be a significant impact to Aboriginal rights. It also confirmed that it is not necessary for the parties to agree on the outcome for the duty to consult to have been met.
- The Supreme Court found that the Crown governments generally met their duty to consult RRDC and Liard First Nation (LFN), other than in respect of their June 14, 2022, submission.
- The Supreme Court ordered YG and Canada to meet with RRDC and LFN to discuss that submission within 60 days and to issue a final Decision Document within 30 days after the meeting. That meeting was held in Ross River on February 7 and 8, 2024, and the new Decision Document was issued on March 8, 2024.
- The 2024 Decision Document allowed the project to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to a number of new and modified terms and conditions to address concerns expressed by the Kaska regarding potential impacts to caribou, land, water and air; cumulative effects; and project economics and feasibility.
- The 2024 Decision Document also included a number of measures to ensure the Kaska will have opportunities to be meaningfully involved in both the regulatory process and in the project itself if it proceeds.

### First Nation Court Case Updates

Executive Council  
Office

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- RRDC appealed the Supreme Court decision, arguing (among other things) that YG and Canada had failed to adequately consult on the project's economic feasibility even though this had been identified as a concern by Liard First Nation (LFN) during the YESAB review.
  - The court found that neither YESAB nor the government Decision Bodies were precluded from considering project benefits as well as impacts or the topic of economic feasibility under YESAA when "fully and fairly" considering the views of a First Nation or fulfilling statutory consultation obligations, and that by failing to consult on economic feasibility in the assessment phase, the Crown inappropriately limited its consultation (because waiting to consult on this topic until the regulatory phase would be too late).
  - **Next step:** YG and the Government of Canada are awaiting a response from RRDC and LFN on the proposed process for consultation on the economic feasibility of the project.

#### *Judicial Review of YESAB Recommendation for Michelle Creek Proposal (#2021-0176):*

- In December 2022, the Dawson Designated Office (DO) released its Evaluation Report and Recommendations for the Michelle Creek Quartz Exploration project proposed by Silver47 Exploration Corp. within the area covered by the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.
- Although the DO had issued Information Requests for additional baseline information to which the proponent did not respond, the DO recommended that the project not be allowed to proceed, because in the assessor's view, it would have significant adverse effects that could not be mitigated.
- YG requested a Judicial Review on the basis that it was inconsistent of the DO to both issue a request for additional data to inform its recommendation (and as required by the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan), and to conclude that it had sufficient information (without having received that additional data) to finalize its recommendation.

### First Nation Court Case Updates

Executive Council  
Office

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- On March 4, 2025 the Supreme Court dismissed YG's application for a judicial review on the grounds that the DO's recommendation has no legal effect and does not create legal obligations. The Court also declined to make findings on the substantive arguments raised in the hearing, as any such findings could compromise a future decision.

<b>Approved by:</b>	
Justin Ferbey	2025 03 13
_____	_____
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office	Date

**Reconciliation with First Nations**Executive Council  
Office

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**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is committed to building strong working relationships with First Nations.
- We are listening to and working with First Nations governments to address the harms caused by a long history of inequality and discrimination.
- Our goal is to achieve meaningful change and tangible benefits for all Yukoners through collaboration on a range of environmental, economic and social projects.

**Additional response:**

- We continue to work with the Government of Canada and Yukon First Nations governments to implement the Final and Self-Government Agreements.
- We also work directly with Yukon First Nations governments through quarterly Yukon Forum meetings and related processes.
- In the past year, we developed legislation in collaboration with Yukon First Nations to establish the Yukon's first health authority, Shāw Kwä'ā/Health and Wellness Yukon/Santé et mieux-être Yukon.
- In partnership with First Nations governments, we implemented the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy, established a Yukon First Nation School Board and developed and passed the *Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act*.
- We are also implementing the Representative Public Service Plan and advancing land use planning.
- Together with our partners, we released an implementation plan for Yukon's Strategy for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls

**Reconciliation with First Nations**Executive Council  
Office

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and 2-Spirit+ Peoples in 2023. We continue to undertake key actions in support of the strategy.

- Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups are key voices in our collaborative work to develop new legislation for lands and minerals.
- Our government is also advancing work to negotiate and implement government-to-government accords with interested Yukon First Nations. Accords provide a formal mechanism for working together on matters of mutual interest and priority.
- We are also prepared to discuss the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, how it might interact with the Final Agreements, and what it may offer to support and strengthen our existing reconciliation efforts.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Yukon government (YG) has made public commitments to reconciliation and strengthening relationships with Yukon First Nations (YFNs), including a commitment in the 2023 mandate letters to continue to prioritize efforts to uphold true reconciliation.
- The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement includes commitments to seek consent from YFN Chiefs to initiate a discussion on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration); to work with First Nations governments to continue to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission through targeted investments and to continue to develop successor mining legislation in partnership with YFNs.

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**Background:**

- The Government of Yukon supports reconciliation with YFNs and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups in many ways, including:
  - Working with YFNs through the Yukon Forum (refer to [TAB 31 “Yukon Forum and Intergovernmental Forum”](#)).



### Reconciliation with First Nations

Executive Council  
Office

- Presenting a united voice to the Government of Canada at Yukon Days (refer to [TAB 65 "Federal Engagement"](#)).
- Negotiating and implementing bilateral and trilateral agreements, including government-to-government accords, that support shared priorities (refer to [TAB 32 "First Nation Accords and Community Priorities"](#)).
- Meeting our consultation obligations and building shared expectations about how consultation and engagement will occur by developing a web-based consultation and engagement system and corporate policies and procedures.
- Actioning the implementation plan for the Yukon Strategy on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People with YFNs, Indigenous women's organizations, families, Survivors and representatives of the RCMP and the Government of Canada.
- Implementing the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy to enhance economic outcomes for YFNs and YFN businesses.
- Working with YFNs to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action (refer to [TAB 71 "Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Update on the Calls to Action"](#)).
- Implementing the Representative Public Service Plan, *Breaking Trail Together*, in support of meeting the goal of increasing Indigenous representation in the public service to 22 per cent by the end of 2029.
- The Government of Yukon has signaled its willingness to discuss the potential application of the Declaration in the Yukon (refer to [TAB 27 "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"](#)).

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2025 02 05

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

### Support for Residential School Site Investigations

Executive Council  
Office

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#### Recommended response:

- The residential school system caused widespread and lasting trauma for Indigenous people, families and communities.
- The Government of Yukon continues to support the Yukon Residential Schools Missing Children Project Working Group in their efforts to bring to light the history and impacts of residential schools.
- While this work is a necessary part of truth and reconciliation, we recognize that it can retraumatize Survivors and their families and communities. We offer our ongoing support and compassion for all those with lived experience of these harms.
- We remain available to the Working Group as they lead this important work and will continue to assist as requested to support healing and reconciliation.

#### Additional response:

- In the Yukon, searches have so far been conducted in Carcross and Whitehorse.
- Funding for this important work has been provided by the governments of Yukon and Canada and is administered by the Council of Yukon First Nations.
- The Yukon government continues to discuss with partners and work internally on how best to continue to support the work being done by the Yukon Residential Schools Missing Children Project.

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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- The governments of Yukon and Canada were unable to confirm their funding for 2024/25 until November 2024, which caused delays in carrying out the 2024 work plan.

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#### Background:

- In the Yukon there were six residential schools that operated between 1903 and 1985: Chootla School in Carcross; Coudert Hall, Yukon Hall and Whitehorse Baptist Mission in Whitehorse; Shingle Point School in Shingle Point on the Yukon's Arctic coast (the

**Support for Residential School Site Investigations**Executive Council  
Office

predecessor to All Saints School in Aklavik); and St. Paul's Hostel in Dawson. The Lower Post School in northern British Columbia also housed Yukon First Nations students.

- The Yukon Residential Schools Missing Children Project (YRSMCP) Working Group is mandated by Yukon First Nations leadership and supported by YG leadership through the Yukon Forum to coordinate ground searches for unmarked or missing graves at former residential school sites in the Yukon with ground penetrating radar. The Working Group's mandate also includes conducting Survivor interviews and archival research, and managing and protecting the personal data collected. The Working Group will also continue to gather archival research on students who attended the Lower Post and Shingle Point residential schools.
- All Yukon First Nations are represented on the Working Group. The Working Group has also sought participation from the transboundary Indigenous governments and groups.

YRSMCP research and results

- In 2023, the Working Group completed an initial ground search at the Chooutla residential school site in Carcross. In September 2023, the Working Group announced that the search identified 15 anomalies and noted the number of students missing is 33 (originally believed to be 20).
- In April 2024, the Working Group conducted a ground search at two former residential school sites (Coudert Hall and Yukon Hall) in Whitehorse with more work yet to be completed. Results have not been publicly announced to date.
- A second ground search of specific additional locations on and around the Chooutla site is being conducted and will continue into spring 2025.

Funding for YRSMCP

- YG provided \$1.3 million in funding between 2021/22 and 2023/24; is providing \$620,000 in 2024/25; and has committed to providing \$700,000 in 2025/26.
- Canada has also provided funding, including a commitment to provide \$1.5M in 2024/25.

**Approved by:**

Justin Ferbey

2025 02 05

Deputy Minister, Executive Council

Date Approved

### Yukon Forum and Intergovernmental Forum

Executive Council  
Office

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#### Recommended response:

- The Yukon Forum and the Intergovernmental Forum are important venues for government-to-government collaboration and meaningful dialogue.
- We will continue to work with Yukon First Nations governments at the Yukon Forum to identify and take collaborative action on shared priorities that advance reconciliation and improve the lives of all Yukoners.
- We also remain committed to advancing strategic discussions on the implementation of Yukon's modern treaties and self-government agreements with Yukon First Nations and federal leaders at the Intergovernmental Forum.

#### Additional Response:

- The last Yukon Forum was held on March 7, 2024 in Whitehorse.
- Leaders discussed Coroner's Investigations and Inquest, Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy, and Canada-US Relations.
- I look forward to meeting again with our partners this spring.
- The last Intergovernmental Forum was held in Ottawa on December 3, 2024, where Yukon First Nations, Yukon, and Canada discussed the federal collaborative fiscal policy.
- A date for the next Intergovernmental Forum has not been set yet.

#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in what is discussed at Intergovernmental Forum and Yukon Forum meetings.

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#### Background:

- The Yukon Forum is a regular meeting between leaders of the Yukon government (YG), Yukon First Nations and the Council of Yukon First Nations.

### Yukon Forum and Intergovernmental Forum

Executive Council  
Office

- The Yukon Forum was established in 2005 under the *Cooperation in Governance Act* between the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations and Yukon First Nations with Final Agreements.
- In January 2017, the governments signed a declaration to renew the Yukon Forum and committed the governments to meet four times a year.
- In May 2017, the governments agreed on the four joint priority areas which include:
  - fiscal relations;
  - bilateral and trilateral engagement on justice, health and social services, education and heritage;
  - land claim and self-government implementation; and
  - ensuring the territory's legislative agenda considers First Nation priorities.
- In September 2017, the Yukon Forum approved a joint priority action plan. It lays out the next steps on topics such as justice, heritage, education, health, land claim agreement implementation and fiscal relations.
- In June 2018, the Yukon Forum agreed to add fish and wildlife to the joint priority action plan.
- In June 2021, the governments reconfirmed their commitment to advancing the joint priorities and discussed plans to investigate former residential school grounds in the Yukon (refer to **TAB 30 "Support for Residential School Site Investigations"**).
- In March 2023, the governments discussed shared actions to address the Substance Use Health Emergency.

**Approved by:**

Justin Ferbey

2025 03 11

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved

### **First Nation Accords and Community Priorities**

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Executive Council Office

#### Recommended response:

- One of our government's overarching priorities is to work collaboratively with First Nations and focus on upholding reconciliation in all that we do.
- Government-to-government accords facilitate a practical and transparent way of working with individual Yukon First Nations governments to identify and address shared priorities that matter to their citizens and bring real benefits to Yukon communities.
- Cultivating strong government-to-government relationships with Yukon First Nations advances the territory's economic and social development and benefits all Yukoners.

#### Additional response:

- Accords are intended to help the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations realize the spirit and intent of their Final and Self-Government Agreements.
- Our government continues to meet with and hear directly from Yukon First Nations governments on their community priorities and needs on an ongoing basis.
- In July 2024, the Government of Yukon and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation signed a 10-year Government-to-Government Accord focused on community wellness, community development, and education and training initiatives.

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#### Context — this may be an issue because:

- The public may be interested in the July 2024 signing of a government-to-government accord with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and may seek progress updates on the implementation of existing accords with other First Nations.
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### First Nation Accords and Community Priorities

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Executive Council Office

#### Background:

- Accords are non-legally binding bilateral agreements between the Yukon government (YG) and a Yukon First Nation government.
- Accords identify shared priorities and set out an Action Plan to coordinate both governments' actions in addressing those priorities.
- See the attached appendix outlining bilateral meetings held in 2024 between Executive Council Office and Yukon First Nations officials to discuss community priorities.

#### Carcross/Tagish First Nation

- The previous five-year accord expired in 2020.
- YG and Carcross/Tagish First Nation are currently in discussions to establish a new accord.

#### Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

- In 2022, YG entered into a project-specific accord with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Yukon Energy Corporation on the Aishihik Generating Station relicensing.
- In late 2024, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations expressed interest in the development of an additional accord on broader bilateral priorities.

#### First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun

- In late 2024, YG and First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun officials discussed developing an accord as a potential intergovernmental tool to identify and advance shared priorities.

#### Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation

- YG is working towards the development of an accord with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.

#### Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

- YG signed a 10-year accord with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation on July 27, 2024 in Old Crow.

#### White River First Nation

- YG has a five-year confidential accord with White River First Nation that was signed in 2020. The associated Action Plan was updated in July 2024 to include additional items related to the mandate of the Department of Highways and Public Works.

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2025 02 05

# Session Briefing Note

TAB 32

Spring 2025

## First Nation Accords and Community Priorities

Executive Council Office

Deputy Minister  
Executive Council Office

Date Approved



## First Nation Accords and Community Priorities

Executive Council Office

### Appendix A: Recent Bilateral Meetings with Yukon First Nations on Community Priorities

Yukon First Nation	Date / Location	Participants	Description
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	Jan 11, 2024 Carcross	C/TFN K̓aa Sháade Héní (Chief) Benoit and Executive Council, Premier Pillai	Discussion of C/TFN community priorities, including planning and energy development projects
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations	Feb 28, 2024 Virtual	CAFN Executive Director, ECO Deputy Minister	Discussion of CAFN community priorities
First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun	May 27, 2024 Mayo	FNNND Chief Hope and Council, Premier Pillai	Discussion of FNNND community priorities
Kluane First Nation	Sep 9, 2024 Burwash Landing	KFN Kwänathi inlj Dickson and Council, Premier Pillai	Discussion of KFN community priorities, including community safety and economic development opportunities
Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Apr 29, 2024 Whitehorse	KDFN Chief Smith, Premier Pillai, Minister Mostyn, Minister Streicker	Discussion of KDFN priorities and interests involving the Range Point Development project
Liard First Nation	Apr 5, 2024	LFN Chief Charlie, Premier Pillai	Discussion on political protocol
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation	May 13, 2024 Carmacks	LS/CFN Chief Tom and Council, MLA for Mayo-Tatchun Jeremy Harper, Premier Pillai	Discussion of LS/CFN community priorities including Chinook salmon recovery, subdivision development, and

### First Nation Accords and Community Priorities

Executive Council Office

Yukon First Nation	Date / Location	Participants	Description
			the second phase of the Carmacks bypass
Selkirk First Nation	May 13, 2024  Pelly Crossing	SFN Chief Nelson and Council, Premier Pillai	Discussion of SFN community priorities, including housing, mining and community wellness
Ta'an Kwäch'än Council	Feb 9, 2024  Virtual	SFN Executive Director, ECO Deputy Minister	Discussion of TKC community priorities
Teslin Tlingit Council	Apr 25, 2024  Whitehorse	TTC Chief Morris, Premier Pillai, Minister Clarke	Discussion of TTC community priorities
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	Jul 26, 2024  Virtual	TH Hahke Taylor, Premier Pillai	Discussed TH priorities with Hahke Taylor then attended and spoke at Moosehide Gathering
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation	Jul 27, 2024  Old Crow	VGFN Chief Frost, Premier Pillai	Signing ceremony for Government-to-Government Accord
White River First Nation	Jan 9, 2024  Beaver Creek	WRFN Chief Chassé and Council, Premier Pillai	Discussion of WRFN community priorities, including a potential community hub, new mining legislation, and housing

### **Yukon government's approach to respecting and reflecting Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being**

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Executive Council  
Office

#### Recommended response:

- We recognize the importance of working collaboratively with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups to deepen our understanding of their knowledge, values and perspectives so our actions and decisions can better respect and reflect these ways of knowing, doing and being.
- We have held numerous conversations with Indigenous governments to build an understanding of their needs, interests, values and concerns related to Yukon government staff working with Indigenous knowledge.
- Through an Intergovernmental Working Group, we are collaborating with Indigenous government representatives to establish guiding principles that respect the ownership, sensitivity, value and importance of their knowledge to help guide our next steps.

#### Additional response:

- Seven Yukon First Nations and two transboundary Indigenous governments have identified representatives for an Intergovernmental Working Group and we are working to enlist additional members.
- Together we are working toward solutions to protect and manage Indigenous data and knowledge shared with the Yukon government.

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#### Context: this may be an issue because:

- Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups often reference the importance of considering Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being in decision-making.

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#### Background:

- The Government of Yukon does not have a comprehensive corporate approach to working with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups to receive and apply Traditional Knowledge to its actions and decisions.

**Yukon government's approach to respecting and reflecting Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being**Executive Council  
Office

- In late 2017, the Executive Council Office initiated a comprehensive engagement process with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups and Yukon government departments.
- In 2021, a formal Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) was established to guide this work. Currently the IWG has eleven members representing seven Yukon First Nations (Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kluane First Nation, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Ross River Dena Council, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and White River First Nation) and two transboundary Indigenous governments and groups (Acho Dene Koe First Nation and Gwich'in Tribal Council).
- Working group meetings have focused on relationship and trust building, terms of reference, goals, milestones, and related steps on the path toward guiding principles, and guidance on the development of a Traditional Knowledge Protection and Tracking solution.
- The Yukon government remains open to bilateral conversations with Yukon First Nations governments that do not wish to participate in multilateral group discussions and to those that are not ready to proceed with this conversation at this time.
- While these broader efforts and discussions continue, we are applying what we have learned so far to other areas of work, including support for Indigenous-led research and research methods; exploration of corporate training options for concepts related to Indigenous knowledge ownership and control; and guidance for Yukon government employees and external researchers on best practices for working with Indigenous knowledge holders and knowledge. For example, many departments have begun establishing Information Sharing Agreements that reflect Indigenous governments' rights to govern access to and application of their collective knowledge.

**Approved by:**

Justin Ferbey

2025 02 07

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Liard First Nation – Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council  
Office

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**Recommended response:**

- We are working with Liard First Nation on shared priorities including economic development and land planning and development. We are also collaborating on the management of natural resources such as forestry, fish and wildlife.
- We are working directly with Liard First Nation to ensure that Yukoners and local industry can access reliable sources of firewood and timber while respecting First Nations' interests.
- We are also exploring new approaches to reconciliation with Liard First Nation and renewing our intergovernmental relationship.
- On September 23, 2024 we marked a significant step in this renewal by signing a Political Protocol with Liard First Nation to provide a strong foundation for respectful partnership and collaboration.

**Additional response:**

- In December 2024, the Yukon Court of Appeal released its decision on the appeal filed by Ross River Dena Council on behalf of the Kaska Nation regarding the proposed Kudz Ze Kayah mine.
- The Court of Appeal found that the governments of Yukon and Canada failed to consult the Kaska First Nations on the economic feasibility of the proposed mine before issuing a Decision Document which allowed the project to enter the regulatory phase.
- The governments of Yukon and Canada have now reached out to Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation to discuss a proposed consultation process regarding the economic feasibility of the project.
- We will continue to consult Liard First Nation and the other Kaska First Nations on activities that may affect their asserted Aboriginal rights in the Yukon, including mineral exploration and land and resource development proposals, while exploring other ways to work collaboratively.

### Liard First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council  
Office

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- Our government has maintained the mineral staking prohibitions within the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon and we are collaborating with First Nations to develop new mineral legislation that addresses mineral staking, exploration and development.
- 

#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- The appeal of the Kudz Ze Kayah decision received some media attention when it was heard in September 2024 and when the decision was released in December 2024.
  - The Official Opposition raised the staking prohibitions in the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Legislative Assembly on March 25, 2024.
  - The availability and cost of firewood in Whitehorse is of interest to the media and the public.
- 

#### Background:

Kudz Ze Kayah ([refer to Tab 5 – “Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project – BMC Minerals”](#))

- On January 3, 2024, the Supreme Court of Yukon issued its decision on the Judicial Review of the 2022 Decision Document for the Kudz Ze Kayah project. The Supreme Court directed the governments of Yukon and Canada to conduct additional consultation on the June 14, 2022, letter from Liard First Nation (LFN) and Ross River Dena Council (RRDC). Following that meeting a new (2024) Decision Document, which also allowed the KZK project to proceed, was issued.
- On February 1, 2024, RRDC, on its own behalf and on behalf of all members of the Kaska Nation, filed a Notice of Appeal of the Supreme Court’s decision. The decision of the Court of Appeal was released on December 6, 2024.
- The court found that neither the Executive Committee of YESAB nor the government Decision Bodies were precluded from considering project benefits as well as impacts or the topic of economic feasibility under YESAA when “fully and fairly” considering the views of a First Nation or fulfilling statutory consultation obligations, and that by failing to consult on economic feasibility in the assessment phase, the Crown inappropriately limited its consultation (because waiting to consult on this topic until the regulatory phase would be too late).

#### Negotiations

- The Yukon government (YG) and LFN established a bilateral negotiation table in August 2020.
  - The table’s current focus is on land development and planning in the vicinity of the Town of Watson Lake and fish and wildlife management.
  - YG and LFN are working to advance short- and medium-term collaborative approaches to opening areas for fuelwood and timber harvesting in the Watson Lake area.
-

### Liard First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council  
Office

- The Department of Energy Mines and Resource's (EMR) Forest Management Branch and LFN jointly developed and approved a Timber Harvest Plan for a salvage harvest project at Scoby Creek east of Watson Lake. Timber harvesting licenses have been issued and timber harvesting operations are active in the Plan area.
- The Timber Harvest Plan and salvage harvest project will help ensure an adequate supply of dry fuelwood to meet the demand in southeast Yukon and the Whitehorse area.

#### Mineral Staking Prohibition

- YG consented to two mineral declarations in the Yukon portion of the Kaska asserted traditional territory outside of the Ross River Area.
- The mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska asserted traditional territory were extended in April 2024 for a two-year period and expire on April 30, 2026 (refer to Tab 26 “Mineral Staking Prohibitions in Response to Litigation”).

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2025 02 05

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

### Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council  
Office

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#### Recommended response:

- We continue to advance our shared priorities with Ross River Dena Council, including economic development, infrastructure, land and resource planning, and fish and wildlife.
- The Government of Yukon understands that Ross River Dena Council has begun to ask proponents to participate in its Tu Łidlini Assessment Process as a means of gathering community input into proposed projects in the Kaska asserted traditional territory.
- While we recognize the First Nation's goal of protecting their rights and interests, neither participation in the Tu Łidlini Assessment Process nor the consent of Ross River Dena Council is legally required to advance project proposals in the Yukon.
- We are continuing to work with Ross River Dena Council to determine how the Tu Łidlini Assessment Process can best work with Yukon's project assessment and regulatory regime, including government-to-government consultation.
- We are also working with Ross River Dena Council and Parks Canada to assess the feasibility of establishing a national park reserve and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area in the Ross River area.
- This initiative is an opportunity to explore new approaches to reconciliation in the Ross River area, while ensuring that industry, communities and the public have opportunities to provide input on their values and interests during the feasibility assessment process.
- We are also working with Ross River Dena Council to respond to complaints of inappropriate and harmful conduct toward women in the community by a Yukon government employee. ([Refer to Tab 2 – "Response to Ross River Dena Council Allegations".](#))



**Ross River Dena Council – Issues  
and Initiatives**Executive Council  
Office

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**Additional response:**

- In December 2024, the Yukon Court of Appeal released its decision on the appeal filed by Ross River Dena Council on behalf of the Kaska Nation regarding the proposed Kudz Ze Kayah mine.
  - The Court of Appeal found that the governments of Yukon and Canada failed to consult the Kaska First Nations on the economic feasibility of the proposed mine before issuing a Decision Document which allowed the project to enter the regulatory phase.
  - The governments of Yukon and Canada have now reached out to Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation to discuss a proposed consultation process regarding the economic feasibility of the project.
  - We will continue to consult Ross River Dena Council and the other Kaska First Nations on activities that may affect their asserted Aboriginal rights in the Yukon, including mineral exploration and land and resource development proposals, while exploring other ways to work collaboratively.
  - Our government has maintained the mineral staking prohibitions within the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon, and we are collaborating with First Nations to develop new mineral legislation that addresses mineral staking, exploration and development.
- 

**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- The Official Opposition raised the staking prohibitions in the Legislative Assembly on March 25, 2024.
  - In June 2024, Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) made statements in local media regarding allegations of inappropriate conduct toward women in the community by a Yukon government employee; there was some related media coverage in September 2024.
  - The appeal of the Kudz Ze Kayah decision received some media attention when it was heard in September 2024 and when the decision was released in December 2024.
  - In December 2024, the announcement of the agreement to conduct the feasibility study
-

## Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council  
Office

resulted in media coverage and attention from stakeholders with interests in the Study Area.

- In January 2025, RRDC made statements at AME Roundup and in the media regarding its Tu Łidlini Assessment Process (TAP).

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### Background:

Kudz Ze Kayah ([refer to Tab 5 – “Kudz Ze Kayah Mine Project – BMC Minerals”](#))

- On January 3, 2024, the Supreme Court of Yukon issued its decision on the Judicial Review of the 2022 Decision Document for the Kudz Ze Kayah (KZK) project. The Supreme Court directed the governments of Yukon and Canada to conduct additional consultation on the June 14, 2022, letter from Liard First Nation (LFN) and Ross River Dena Council (RRDC). Following that meeting a new (2024) Decision Document, which also allowed the KZK project to proceed, was issued.
- On February 1, 2024, RRDC, on its own behalf and on behalf of all members of the Kaska Nation, filed a Notice of Appeal of the Supreme Court’s decision. The decision of the Court of Appeal was released on December 6, 2024.
- The court found that neither the Executive Committee of YESAB nor the government Decision Bodies were precluded from considering project benefits as well as impacts or the topic of economic feasibility under YESAA when “fully and fairly” considering the views of a First Nation or fulfilling statutory consultation obligations, and that by failing to consult on economic feasibility in the assessment phase, the Crown inappropriately limited its consultation (because waiting to consult on this topic until the regulatory phase would be too late).

### Mineral Staking Prohibitions

- In 2013, YG implemented a notification regime for Class 1 mining activities in the Ross River Area (RRA) and withdrew the RRA from mineral staking.
- The mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska asserted traditional territory were extended in April 2024 for a two-year period and now expire on April 30, 2026 ([refer to Tab 26 “Mineral Staking Prohibitions in Response to Litigation”](#)).

### Tu Łidlini Assessment Process

- In late 2024, RRDC began informing proponents that they must participate in the Tu Łidlini Assessment Process (TAP) and secure the consent of RRDC for proposed projects in the Kaska asserted traditional territory in the Yukon.

### Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council  
Office

- While RRDC does not have legal authority to require proponents to participate in the TAP, proponents may choose to participate as a means of building positive relationships and/or securing social licence for their projects.
- YG acknowledges that RRDC's TAP may support meaningful consultations about potential impacts to asserted Kaska rights. However, the TAP does not replace the need for government-to-government consultation, assessment under YESAA or approvals under Yukon's regulatory processes; nor is RRDC's consent required for the authorization of projects.

#### National Park/IPCA Feasibility Study

- On December 4, 2024, the Government of Yukon (YG), Parks Canada, and RRDC signed a *Memorandum of Understanding on the Feasibility of a National Park and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area in the Ross River Area*.
- A trilateral government-to-government Steering Committee will be established in early 2025 to lead the feasibility assessment process.

#### Major Projects and Initiatives

- YG must develop a new proposal for the Pelly River crossing at Ross River by November 2027.
- Aboriginal Relations and Community Services are working with the Town of Faro to support consultation with the Kaska First Nations on the amendment of their Official Community Plan.
- The 2020 Gateway Project agreement between YG and RRDC will be revised to allow for the advancement of the work on the Robert Campbell Highway while further discussions occur about the North Canol Road work.

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2025 03 03

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

### White River First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council  
Office

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#### Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon, White River First Nation and the Government of Canada are working together to advance shared interests and priorities.
- We have a bilateral government-to-government accord with White River First Nation focused on capacity development, education, justice, health, infrastructure, emergency planning, hunting and relationship building.
- We will work with White River First Nation and nearby First Nations to find constructive solutions when issues arise in the overlapping areas of their traditional territories.

#### Additional response:

- We understand that White River First Nation signed an Impact-Benefit Agreement with the Newmont Corporation regarding the Coffee Gold project.
  - We are encouraged to see this positive example of a proponent and First Nation working together to address their shared interests.
  - We look forward to further consultation and discussion with White River First Nation in the project's regulatory phase.
  - We are continuing to engage with White River First Nation to prepare for the assessment and regulatory processes for the proposed Casino mine.
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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- The proposed Casino mine will be the first project assessed via Panel Review under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA).
  - This will require extensive consultation and accommodation with all affected First Nations, including White River First Nation and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
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#### Background:

Government-to-Government Accord

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### White River First Nation – Issues and Initiatives

Executive Council  
Office

- On June 5, 2020, White River First Nation (WRFN) and the Yukon government (YG) signed a government-to-government Accord that identifies priorities and action items over a five-year term. The associated Action Plan was updated in July 2024 to include additional items related to the Department of Highways and Public Works.

#### Bilateral and Trilateral Negotiations

- WRFN and YG are in exploratory bilateral discussions to further understand WRFN's interests and investigate potential solutions.
- YG, WRFN and the Government of Canada are engaged in trilateral discussions on shared priorities, with a focus on parks and protected areas and the Canada-U.S. border station.

#### Interim Protected Lands (IPLs)

- Since the early 2000s, approximately 136 land parcels have been protected for a future treaty with WRFN. The current protection orders expire on March 31, 2025.
- It is anticipated that the continuation or potential replacements for the Interim Protected Lands will be discussed at the trilateral table.

#### Major Projects

- YG is working with WRFN and other affected First Nations to develop a disturbance monitoring plan in accordance with the s.110a recommendation of the Coffee Gold project decision document under YESAA.
- YG and WRFN are developing a project-specific consultation plan for the proposed Casino Mine Project, which is currently in the pre-assessment phase of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's process.

#### Capacity Funding and Consultation

- YG provides annual funding to support WRFN's participation in YG's negotiations and consultation and engagement processes.
- YG also provides project-specific consultation and engagement funding in certain scenarios.

#### **Approved by:**

Justin Ferbey

2025 03 03

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

**Taku River Tlingit First Nation –  
Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council  
Office

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**Recommended response:**

- We are engaged in bilateral discussions with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation regarding their interests and asserted Indigenous rights in the Yukon, including land planning and development and wildlife management.
- These discussions are intended to explore new approaches to reconciliation, including with respect to how our governments can best work together on shared priorities.

**If additional information is needed:**

- As a part of our discussions with the Taku River Tlingit, we are considering the potential transfer of an 11.5 square kilometer area, known as the Áashú [AH-shoo] Lands. This area is located off the Atlin Road, within the Taku River Tlingit First Nation's asserted traditional territory and the Carcross/Tagish First Nation's Traditional Territory.
- These discussions are not treaty or self-government agreement negotiations. They represent an attempt to reach a negotiated agreement about how to resolve the litigation brought by the Taku River Tlingit First Nation against the Yukon government in 2014.
- We are consulting with Carcross/Tagish First Nation on potential impacts to their treaty and Aboriginal rights, should the land transfer go ahead. No decision will be made about the land transfer before the consultation with Carcross/Tagish First Nation is concluded.
- The proposed Áashú Lands transfer would not include lots held by private landowners; these lots would remain with existing owners and their access would be maintained on a public road.

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**Context—this may be an issue because:**

- Questions about the potential transfer of the Áashú Lands were raised during the 2024 spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

**Taku River Tlingit First Nation –  
Issues and Initiatives**Executive Council  
Office**Background:**

- Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) is a transboundary First Nation based in Atlin, British Columbia. TRTFN asserts a traditional territory in the Yukon that overlaps portions of the Traditional Territories of Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN), Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Teslin Tlingit Council.

Statement of Claim

- In 2014, TRTFN filed a Statement of Claim requesting court declarations on three matters: consultation on mineral staking and exploration, the proposed Atlin Lake Campground and the issuance of hunting licenses and seals.
- The court granted two mineral declarations.
  - Declaration 1 states that YG has a duty to consult TRTFN before granting mineral rights. This is not possible under the current free entry system. A consent order suspending Declaration 1 from coming into effect is currently in place.
  - In July 2017, the Yukon government (YG) and TRTFN filed an Abeyance Agreement with the Supreme Court of Yukon, under which each party agreed to provide notice prior to taking steps on the other matters set out in the 2014 Statement of Claim.
  - In March 2019, YG prohibited entry for mineral staking and land dispositions on the Áashú Lands. Those prohibitions are in place until April 30, 2026.
  - In fall 2023, YG and TRTFN negotiators completed draft agreements to resolve the litigation. The potential transfer of the Áashú Lands was publicly announced by TRTFN in their newsletter in 2023. C/TFN subsequently distributed a letter to its citizens disputing TRTFN's land interests in the Yukon in 2023.
  - Declaration 2 states that YG must notify, and where appropriate consult and accommodate TRTFN regarding mineral exploration activities. This declaration is in effect and was addressed through the implementation of the Class 1 notification system.

**Approved by:**

Justin Ferbey

2025 02 05

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**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

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Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Executive Committee Faro Mine Remediation Project Canada

Executive Council  
Office

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#### Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon supports the remediation of the Faro Mine, including the appropriate assessment and licensing of remediation activities.
- The Faro Mine Remediation Project's environmental and socio-economic effects are considered and evaluated through the Yukon *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* screening process.
- As a decision body for this project, the Yukon government is consulting with the Kaska First Nations, Selkirk First Nation and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation in a way that meets our obligations and our commitment to build strong relationships with First Nations.

#### Additional response:

- As with any project, we are committed to participation in all stages of the assessment.

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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- The project is of broad interest to Yukoners, particularly to the communities of Faro and Ross River and to the Kaska First Nations, Selkirk First Nation and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.

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#### Background:

##### Project information

- The Faro Mine was an open pit lead-zinc mine that began operations in 1969.
- The site was abandoned in 1998 and is currently in care and maintenance.
- In May 2018, the Government of Canada assumed responsibility for the care and maintenance operations at the mine site.

## Executive Committee Faro Mine Remediation Project Canada

Executive Council  
Office

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- A Transition Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon (YG) was signed by YG with the support and agreement of the Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) and Selkirk First Nation (SFN).
- The Faro Mine Remediation Project is an important initiative of the Government of Canada – Crown Indigenous Relations Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) – to improve the existing conditions at the Faro mine site.
- The project includes active remediation for a 15-year period to stabilize contaminants.

### Assessment process

- The project proposal was submitted to the Executive Committee on August 27, 2019, and after an extended adequacy review, screening of the project commenced on November 21, 2021.
- On July 5, 2024, the Executive Committee issued its Final Screening Report and recommendation. The Decision Bodies had up to 52 days (to August 27, 2024) to decide if the Final Screening Report should be referred back to the Executive Committee for reconsideration. Federal decision bodies subsequently extended this deadline to September 27, 2024.
- On September 27, 2024, federal decision bodies referred the project back to the Executive Committee for reconsideration. Reasons for this referral included:
  - anticipated challenges with implementation of some of the terms, particularly term #2 related to water quality objectives;
  - the need for clarifications on some of the terms; and
  - outstanding concerns from First Nations which were raised with federal decision bodies during consultation.
- The Government of Yukon was prepared to accept the Final Screening Report but was supportive of First Nations and federal decision bodies in referring the project back for reconsideration.
- On November 22, 2024, the Executive Committee issued their Referral and new recommendation. Decision bodies for the project are currently concluding First Nation consultation prior to issuing their decision document.

### Consultation with First Nations

- The Government of Yukon is consulting Kaska First Nations, as the project is located within the asserted Kaska traditional territory.

### Executive Committee Faro Mine Remediation Project Canada

Executive Council  
Office

- Selkirk First Nation and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation are being consulted as well due to potential downstream effects from the Faro Mine on treaty rights.

#### **Yukon Act amendment**

- An amendment to the Yukon Act gives the federal Minister responsible for Northern Affairs the same powers with respect to a Type II site on federal land as the responsible Minister in the Yukon government.
- This amendment was agreed to as part of transitioning the administration and control of the Faro Mine site from the Government of Yukon to the Government of Canada.
- It brings together governance of the project, financial responsibility for the remediation and statutory power to manage risks at the site under a single federal Minister.
- This amendment was contemplated in the Faro Mine Transition Agreement, entered into by the federal and territorial governments in 2020.
- The Government of Yukon was consulted.
- The amendment to the Yukon Act is complete and the final step to transfer full control to Canada is finalizing and surveying the site boundary. This is planned for summer 2025.

#### **Approved by:**

Justin Ferbey

2025 02 05

Deputy Minister

Date

Executive Council Office

**Casino Mine Project**Executive Council  
Office

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**Recommended Response:**

- The Casino Mining Corporation informed the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board that their Environmental and Socio-economic Effects Statement submission for the Casino Mine Project will be submitted in or around July 2025.
- The submission will initiate the Panel of the Board review process.
- We are preparing to engage and participate in the panel review process, recognizing the significance of the potential mine to the Yukon and to Canada, particularly for the development of critical minerals.

**Additional Response:**

- Our government supports mineral development that is environmentally and socially responsible.
- While large-scale mining operations are the backbone of our territorial economy, we must ensure that industry operating today is not doing so at the expense of future Yukoners or the environment.
- We understand our role and responsibility as technical experts, regulators, and land and resource managers to ensure that mineral development is planned and evaluated on the information presented during the panel review.
- Some operational details of the panel review process are still being developed by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. Our government continues to monitor these developments.
- Our government will not license another heap leach facility in the Yukon until the outcomes of the Eagle Gold Independent Review Board are known and incorporated, as appropriate, into licensing and enforcement policies and practices.

### Casino Mine Project

Executive Council  
Office

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#### Context - this may be an issue because:

- The Casino Mine Project would be one of the largest mine projects in Canada and will be the first Panel of the Board review undertaken since the enactment of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA).
  - The failure of Eagle Gold's heap leach facility has brought new attention to Casino's proposed heap leach facility that, as proposed, would process approximately 9.125 million tonnes (Mt) of ore per year for a total of 210 Mt over the life of the mine, comparable to Eagle Gold's licensed processing rate of ~10 Mt per year for a total of 92 Mt of ore.
- 

#### Background:

##### **Project Overview**

- The Casino Project (the Project) is a proposed large-scale copper, gold, molybdenum and silver mine located approximately 150 kilometres northwest of Carmacks in west-central Yukon.
  - The mine is expected to employ approximately 1,400 people during construction and approximately 700 people during operations.
  - It is owned by Casino Mining Corporation (CMC), a subsidiary of Western Copper and Gold.
  - The proposed mine, and its access road and infrastructure, are within the Traditional Territories of Selkirk First Nation, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and within the White River First Nation asserted area.
  - Kluane First Nation Treaty rights may also be impacted by downstream effects.
  - The mine would process ~145,000 tonnes of ore per day over a 27-year mine life.
  - The project proposes a conventional open pit mining operation and processing using a mill and flotation circuit and heap leach facility, and permanent storage of tailings and waste rock in a large-scale tailings management facility (TMF).
  - Proposed access to the mine would involve upgrading the Freegold Road (83 kilometers), and development of the 123 kilometers Casino Trail into an all-season road.
  - Approximately 188 trucks/day, (376 trucks round trip), would haul the processed ore from the mine site to the Port of Skagway.
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### Casino Mine Project

Executive Council  
Office

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- As proposed, the mine requires the construction and operation of a 200 megawatt liquefied natural gas facility.

#### *Panel Review Process*

- In 2014, the Casino Mining Corporation (CMC) submitted a Project Proposal to the YESAB Executive Committee for screening.
- After two years in the Adequacy Review stage, the YESAB Executive Committee determined that the Project requires a Panel review for the following reasons:
  - a) the project involves technology that is controversial in the Yukon; and
  - b) the project might contribute significantly to cumulative adverse environmental or socio-economic effects in the Yukon.
- YESAB issued guidelines for the development of the Environmental and Socio-economic Effects Statement (ESES) for the Project in 2016.
- In a letter to Casino Mining Corporation dated October 28, 2022, YESAB outlined the reasons for their decision to revise the ESES guidelines. YESAB issued the draft revised ESES guidelines on January 3, 2023. The Government of Yukon Interdepartmental Working Group for the Casino Mine Project reviewed and provided comments on the guidelines on April 19, 2023.
- YESAB issued the final revised ESES Guidelines on September 12, 2023. CMC provided an updated schedule for their ESES Submission on August 11, 2024, indicating a submission date in July 2025. Submission of the ESES will initiate the panel review process.
- The Yukon government attended several participant education sessions hosted by YESAB on the development of key components of the panel review process, including the Panel of the Board Terms of Reference and the determination of the primary location of effects.
- Representatives from the Government of Yukon, the Government of Canada, the governments of Selkirk First Nation, White River First Nation, and Little Salmon Carmack's First Nation, as well as the Proponent, were unanimous in their view that YESAB should begin work, and engage with participants, on a draft Terms of Reference in advance of the submission of the ESE Statement. However, YESAB has indicated that they will not develop a draft Terms of Reference until the ESES has been submitted.



### Casino Mine Project

Executive Council  
Office

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- The Minister of the Executive Council Office is the Government of Yukon decision body for a YESAB Panel Review.
- Other decision bodies will include Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation due to the proposed realignment of the Freegold Road on Settlement Land, and several federal decision bodies.
- The Panel will comprise at least three YESAB members, excluding the chair. Its membership will be determined once the company files its submission.
- Details of participant funding and related processes for the Panel Review have yet to be determined.

**Approved by:**

Justin Ferbey  
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2025.02.05  
Date Approved

#### Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is actively engaged in Yukon Water Board proceedings as appropriate.
- Our government supports a regulatory process that meets the commitments of Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and is grounded in the principles of reconciliation.
- Our government looks forward to the Yukon Water Board public hearing on the Mt. Nansen Type B licence and the clarity the Yukon Water Board will provide in its decision.

#### Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon strives to balance the conservation, development and use of water, on behalf of all Yukoners and Canadians.
- We respect the quasi-judicial nature of the Board.
- It is important that governments and regulatory bodies operate within their responsibilities to support predictable regulatory processes and reasonable outcomes.

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#### Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Water Board has issued information requests to all the parties and has informally indicated that LSCFN's application for a licence amendment in the public interest for the Mt Nansen Type B Water is likely to be heard around August 2025.

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#### Background:

- In 2016, Canada initiated the sale of Mount Nansen due to escalating remediation costs (paid for by Canada).
- In May 2018, the Supreme Court of Yukon approved the sale of the Mount Nansen Mine site to Alexco Resource and JDS Energy and Mining.

- Under this arrangement, the Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership or MNRLP, a joint venture between Ensero Solutions (formerly Alexco) and JDS Energy and Mining, is contracted to complete remediation work for the Government of Canada, with input from YG and LSCFN.
- Canada and MNRLP entered into a Remediation and Security Agreement (RSA) which describes how MNRLP shall implement a remediation plan at Mt Nansen.
- Canada, YG, and LSCFN entered into a Governments Agreement on June 13, 2019, describing how the governments will work together to implement remediation of Mount Nansen.
- In support of the sale and remediation process, YG issued a land lease for an area greater than 640 acres and amended an existing Water Board policy to waive the requirement for financial security.
- The transfer of the site to the MNRLP was contingent on the issuance of the care and maintenance water licence.
- In April 2018, YG submitted a project proposal to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board for care and maintenance activities at the site.
- In April 2019, after consulting with First Nations, YG and Canada issued a joint Decision Document for the project.
- In fall 2019, Canada submitted an application for a water licence for care and maintenance activities. MNRLP assumed responsibility for the application in 2020 and received a water licence from the Yukon Water Board on August 21, 2021.
- The Yukon Water Board received comments on the application from YG, LSCFN, and the Yukon Conservation Society.
- There was no public hearing held for the application although one was requested by LSCFN.
- The water licence was significant because it allowed YG to transfer care and maintenance responsibilities to MNRLP in October 2021.
- The water licence enabled MNRLP to install a water treatment plant to address contaminated water originating in the tailing's storage facility.

- The water treatment plant became operational on April 10, 2022.
- It is designed to treat Seepage Pond Water before discharge to ensure it is non-toxic.
- On February 21, 2023, the Yukon Water Board (the Board) received an application by Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) pursuant to Chapter 14 of the LSCFN Final Agreement and ss. 16 and 19 of the Waters Act in relation to the Type B water licence (QZ19-055) issued to the Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership to determine whether:
  - the licence should be amended in the public interest;
  - the terms and conditions of the licence need to be reviewed due to unforeseen impacts on LSCFN including the consideration of alternatives and measures that can be taken to avoid impacts to LSCFN's treaty rights;
  - MNRLP is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the licence; and
  - LSCFN is entitled to compensation under various provisions of Chapter 14 for loss and damage caused by MNRLP's use of water under the licence and MNRLP's uses of water that are not covered by the licence.

- LSCFN named three respondents to the application including MNRLP, the Government of Yukon (YG) and the Government of Canada (Canada).
- Canada and YG submitted Responses to the Board on December 28, 2023, and LSCFN submitted a Reply to the Board on February 2, 2024.
- MNRLP applied for and obtained an amendment to its water licence to temporarily increase the allowable rate of discharge from the water treatment plant from 360 m<sup>3</sup>/day to 600 m<sup>3</sup>/day in October 2023.
- Due to LSCFN concerns communicated and reported in the media about insufficient storage capacity for contaminated water, MNRLP submitted a further application for amendment to its water licence. That amendment was granted by the Board on March 27, 2024, and allows for the operation of a mobile water treatment plant among other measures.

**Approved by:**

Justin Ferbey  
Deputy Minister  
Executive Council Office

2025 02 05  
Date approved

**EMR # 4 / ENV #81  
Spring 2025****Session Briefing Note  
Dawson Regional Land  
Use Planning**Energy, Mines and Resources  
and Environment

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**Recommended response:**

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

**Additional response:**

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

# Session Briefing Note

## Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

EMR # 4 / ENV #81  
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and Resources  
and Environment

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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.

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### 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.

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### 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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## Session Briefing Note Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

## Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment

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



# **Session Briefing Note**

## **Dawson Regional Land Use Planning**

**EMR # 4 / ENV #81**  
**Spring 2025**

Energy, Mines and Resources  
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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,

**Session Briefing Note**  
**Dawson Regional Land**  
**Use Planning**

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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.

<b>Approved by:</b>	
Paul Moore	February 5, 2025
_____ Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources	_____ Date approved
Dennis Berry	February 4, 2025
_____ Deputy Minister of Environment	_____ Date approved

## Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2025**

### Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

Energy, Mines and  
Resources

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**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.
- Recently, the committee has been meeting with these stakeholders more frequently to discuss each component 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.

# Session Briefing Note

## Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

#6  
Spring 2025

Energy, Mines and  
Resources

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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.

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### 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.

**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2025****Successor Resource  
Legislation – Minerals and  
Public Lands**Energy, Mines and  
Resources

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

Deputy Minister

Date approved

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

### **Streamlining of Regulatory Assessment Process**

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Executive Council Office

#### **Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon is taking action to improve the territory's assessment and regulatory system.
- Assessment and regulation should be efficient, predictable and grounded in the principles of reconciliation.
- The Government of Yukon is developing new minerals legislation and public lands legislation in close collaboration with Indigenous governments.
- Since early 2021, the YESAA Oversight Group has been developing an approach that would allow, with Yukon First Nations' consent, an exemption from assessment for projects that involve a renewal or amendment to an existing authorization.

#### **Additional response:**

- The Government of Canada has been financially assisting the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board to do a review of the Designated Office Rules and to support an internal re-organization to better utilize assessment resources and improve efficiency.
- We are implementing priority actions from the Wetlands Stewardship Policy, which was released in January 2024.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with Yukon First Nations, the Government of Canada and relevant Boards and Councils to ensure project proposals have effective Regional Land Use Plan conformity checks.

### Streamlining of Regulatory Assessment Process

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Executive Council Office

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#### Context — this may be an issue because:

- Industry groups have identified concerns around efficient regulatory and assessment processes.

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#### Background:

- A Steering Committee for New Minerals Legislation was struck in September 2021. It includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN), Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous governments.
- The Steering Committee for New Minerals Legislation is working to develop a recommended framework for a new regime that will cover all aspects of new legislation. Information from the public engagement and Indigenous consultation period in 2023 is being considered by the Committee, and a What We Heard document was released on August 27, 2024.
- The Steering Committee for New Public Lands Legislation developed options for new legislation based on several key policy issues. The Yukon government recently finished a public engagement and First Nation consultation period on the options. The Steering Committee will reconvene in the coming months to develop a recommended framework for a new regime, considering input received during public engagement and consultation.
- The YESAA Reset MOU established the YESAA Oversight Group, with members from the governments of Canada and Yukon, and CYFN. One of the YESAA Oversight Group objectives is to look for improvements in its implementation.
- The proposed approach for the targeted amendment was developed by the Parties to the YESAA Oversight Group – the Government of Canada, CYFN, and the Government of Yukon.
- Engagement sessions with First Nations governments, industry and NGOs were completed in the fall/winter of 2022–2023.
- CYFN passed a resolution on January 16, 2024, that supports moving forward with the targeted amendment. At that point, the Government of Canada undertook a 45-day targeted engagement with First Nations on the proposed approach to inform development of Canada's Memorandum to Cabinet.

### Streamlining of Regulatory Assessment Process

Executive Council Office

- 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.
- The YESAA Reset MOU and the Oversight Group's Terms of Reference commit the Oversight Group to undertake a comprehensive review of the YESAA development assessment process at least once every 10 years, beginning from November 2017 unless the parties agree otherwise. The first review is due in 2027. To meet this commitment, the parties expressed support to prepare for a comprehensive review of YESAA and its Regulations.
- The YG wetlands stewardship policy is a high-level guide that supports environmental and socio-economic assessment, regulatory approval and licensing, as well as provide tools for land-use planning.
- The Department of Environment is leading several policy implementation actions including advancing wetland mapping in priority areas, developing wetland classification standards for the Yukon, wetland mapping standards and guidance for nominating/reviewing Wetlands of Special Importance. (See ENV session note on Wetland Policy).
- The Government of Yukon is in discussions with Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations, the Government of Canada, and relevant Boards, Councils and Commissions to confirm short-term approaches to conformity checks and long-term funding approaches that are consistent with the Yukon First Nation Final Agreements.

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey  
Deputy Minister  
Executive Council Office

2025 02 05  
Date approved



### Youth Directorate Funding to Community Organizations

Executive Council  
Office

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#### Recommended response:

- The Youth Directorate supports programs and services that help youth reach their full potential through mental health and wellness.
- The Youth Directorate provides more than \$1.6 million annually to youth-serving organizations and community groups through several funding programs.
- The Confidence and Supply Agreement provides an additional \$1 million per year to support youth mental health and wellness.

#### Additional response:

- Our government is committed to organizations that provide valuable supports and services to the territory's youth and communities.
- Our contributions help these organizations keep Yukon youth engaged and build better futures.

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#### Context – this may be an issue because:

- Increases to operational funding to support youth serving organizations is an ongoing issue.
- 

#### Background:

##### CASA

- Under the Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA) an additional \$1 million per year for three fiscal years (2023–24, 2024–25 and 2025–26) is being invested to support mental health and wellness, including:
  - \$500,000 for the Youth Directorate to provide additional funding support to five key youth organizations to support youth mental health and wellness.
  - \$500,000 for the Department of Education to support mental health in schools.

## Youth Directorate Funding to Community Organizations

Executive Council  
Office

### Operational Funding

- The Youth Directorate provides annual operational funding to five youth-serving organizations through three-year transfer payment agreements which are to expire on March 31, 2025.
- Renewed transfer payment agreements will be in place for April 1, 2025.

The 2024-25 operational and CASA funding allocations are as follows:

Organization	Current Annual Operational Funding Amount	Amount of OPS funding covered by ECO's Budget	Annual CASA funding	Annual Totals to Recipient (2 separate TPA's)
Association franco-yukonnaise	31,000	6,000	1,860	32,860
BGC Yukon	277,000	20,000	182,140	459,140
BYTE – Empowering Youth Society	304,000	30,000	80,000	384,000
Heart of Riverdale Community Centre	278,000	20,000	80,000	358,000
Youth of Today Society	<u>271,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>351,000</u>
<b>Totals</b>	1,161,000	96,000	424,000	1,585,000
<b>EDU permanent contribution</b>		<u>20,000</u>		
<b>Operational Funding increase covered by ECO</b>		<b>76,000</b>		
<b>Total applied to CASA</b>		<b>76,000</b>	<b>424,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>
BYTE's Leaders in Training (LIT) Workshop commenced in 2019-20 as an independent project TPA of 10k. Commencing in 2022-23, this was amalgamated into BYTE's Operational Funding TPA.				
In February 2022, Premier Silver approved an annual \$20,000/year increase each to BGCY, BYTE, HRCC, YOTS and \$6,000 to AFY (\$86,000 total) <u>funded within ECO's budget</u>				

## Youth Directorate Funding to Community Organizations

Executive Council  
Office

### Funding Programs

- The Youth Directorate provides up to \$422,000 of annual project funding to support:
  - The Youth Developmental Asset Program – \$320,000 for youth activities, training and employment for Kwanlin Dün First Nation and 16 Yukon communities. (see attached)
  - The Youth Investment Fund – \$102,000 for community-driven initiatives aimed at marginalized youth ages 18 and under. (see attached)

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2025 02 05

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved

## Youth Directorate Funding to Community Organizations

Executive Council  
Office

### Youth Developmental Asset Program (YDAP) 2024-25 Funding Breakdown

Community	Organization Funded	Allotted Funding	Status
Beaver Creek	White River First Nation	\$14,000.00	Active
Burwash Landing	Kluane First Nation	\$14,000.00	Active
Carcross	Carcross Recreation Board	\$20,000.00	Active
Carmacks	Village of Carmacks	\$20,000.00	Active
Dawson	City of Dawson	\$12,500.00	Active
Dawson	Dawson Arts Society	\$12,500.00	Active
Faro	Town of Faro	\$20,000.00	Active
Haines Junction	Champagne Aishihik First Nation	\$20,000.00	Active
Kwanlin Dun	Kwanlin Dun First Nation	\$20,000.00	Active
Marsh Lake	Marsh Lake Community Society	\$14,000.00	Active
Mayo	Village of Mayo	\$20,000.00	Active
Mount Lorne	Lorne Mountain Community Association	\$14,000.00	Active
Old Crow	Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation	\$20,000.00	Active
Pelly Crossing	Selkirk First Nation	\$20,000.00	Active
Ross River	Ross River Recreation Society	\$20,000.00	Active
Tagish	Tagish Community Association	\$14,000.00	Active
Teslin	Village of Teslin	\$20,000.00	Active
Watson Lake	Town of Watson Lake	\$25,000.00	Active
Total Funding for 2024-25 Fiscal Year:		\$320,000.00	



### Youth Directorate Funding to Community Organizations

Executive Council  
Office

#### Youth Investment Fund (YIF) Funding Breakdown - Fall 2024 \$501-\$5,000

Base Community	Organization Funded	Project	Funding Awarded	Status
Whitehorse	All City Band Society	Community Tour to Carcross, Teslin and Watson Lake	\$4,750	Active
Whitehorse	BGC Yukon	Young Riders Program Mt. Sima	\$4,750	Active
Whitehorse	Big Brothers Big Sisters Yukon	Mentoring Through Music	\$4,500	Active
Carcross	Carcross Rec Board	Judo	\$4,000	Active
Carcross	Carcross Rec Board	Rock Wall	\$4,000	Active
Whitehorse	Friends of Mt. Sima Society	Youth on Snow	\$4,500	Active
Whitehorse	Holy Family School Council	School Spelling Bee	\$1,400	Active
Whitehorse	Jack Hulland Elementary School	Downhill Skiing and Leadership Initiative	\$4,000	Active
Whitehorse	Japanese Canadian Association of Yukon	2025 Japanese Playcare	\$4,750	Active
Mayo	JV Clark School Council	JV Clark Woodshop	\$4,000	Active
Dawson	North Klondyke Highway Music Society	Youth Music Mentorship Program	\$3,750	Active
Whitehorse	Riverdale Baptist Church	Youth Group	\$1,500	Active
Whitehorse	Riverdale Baptist Church	Summer Camp	\$2,000	Active
Whitehorse	St. Francis School Council	Disc Golf Course	\$4,500	Pending land use permissions
Whitehorse	Switch Kick Society	Project Groundwork	\$4,000	Active
Faro	Town of Faro	Drumming Together: Cultural Connection for Faro and Ross River	\$5,000	Active
Teslin	Village of Teslin	First Assist Hockey Program	\$4,500	Active
Whitehorse	Whitehorse Bike Kitchen Task Force	ChainWhip Bike Repair Skill Building Camp	\$4,500	Active
Whitehorse	Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Society	Kidsfest	\$4,500	Active
Fall 2024 (2025-26 Spring intake commences April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2025)			\$74,900	

### Recommended response

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working in partnership to help youth succeed.
- We continue to support programs and services that promote wellness and help youth to reach their full potential.
- This includes supporting initiatives that increase awareness of available programs and services, empowering youth voices, involving youth in developing programs directed towards them, and providing opportunities for youth to contribute to their communities.

### Additional response

- The Government of Yukon was proud to sign a declaration of support for the Territorial Youth Strategy.
- We are committed partners in this work and are pleased to support this important work.

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### Context — this may be an issue because:

- In July 2024, the Territorial Youth Collective released year-two priorities of the Territorial Youth Strategy which may lead to questions about Government of Yukon support to address these priorities.
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### Government of Yukon Support:

- The Executive Council Office's Youth Directorate is a member of the Community Partnership Table and will be the Government of Yukon's primary contact for monitoring progress on the implementation of the Territorial Youth Strategy.
- This table meets monthly to discuss matters relating to the implementation of the strategy.

## Territorial Youth Strategy

Executive Council Office

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- **Strategy Tracking:** Strategy Tracking: As part of our work to support the Strategy, we worked with departments to summarize and profile Yukon government actions that support year 2 Strategy priorities. This summary was shared with the Territorial Youth Collective.
- **Implementation Teams**
  - Government of Yukon representatives also participate on the Implementation Teams for the implantation of the Territorial Youth Strategy.
  - These tables meet periodically to create projects related to the following themes:
    1. Basic Needs/Community Safety
    2. Mental Wellness/Land Stewardship
    3. Access to Education/Employment

### Territorial Youth Strategy and Year-two priorities:

- In April 2024, Premier Pillai and Minister McLean signed a declaration in support of the draft Territorial Youth Strategy along with other Yukon leaders.
- Signatories of this declaration are expected to assist in, and support, the implementation of this strategy.
- In July 2024, the final version of the strategy and respective year-two priorities were publicly released.
- Year-two priorities align with the six pathways to a sense of belonging and include:
  - housing security;
  - funding for treatment centres and intervention supports;
  - harm reduction supports;
  - training for recreation capacity;
  - healthy mentors and positive role models;
  - mental health resources for remote communities;
  - intergenerational connections;
  - reducing stigma and increasing support for people struggling with mental wellness challenges;
  - sense of belonging in schools;
  - alternative education;
  - healthy relationships and consent;
  - work-study opportunities;

## Territorial Youth Strategy

Executive Council Office

- youth employment in remote communities; and
- land based programming and healing

### Background

- In 2023, Communities Building Youth Futures, in collaboration with many diverse stakeholders (young people, youth serving organizations, businesses, community members and First Nations governments) created a draft Territorial Youth Strategy consisting of youth identified issues with year-one priorities.
- The strategy is community-driven and includes Government of Yukon input from various levels. The strategy's vision is that all youth in the territory feel empowered, have a positive sense of self, have mutually caring and fulfilling relationships, and feel connected to and supported by their family, community and land.
- The six main priority areas in the strategy are called "Pathways to a Sense of Belonging" and focus on: basic needs, community safety and harm reduction, mental wellness and connects, access to learning and education, employment and career opportunities, and land and stewardship.
- The intent of the strategy is to serve as a guiding document for decision-makers at all levels and in all sectors and will be revised as needed on an ongoing basis at annual Yukon Youth Summits.
- The primary organizations involved in the Territorial Youth Strategy included: Communities Building Youth Futures, BGC Yukon, BYTE – Empowering Youth Society, the Child & Youth Advocate Office and the Youth of Today Society.
- In March 2024, the Tamarack Institute funding to Communities Building Youth Futures ended so the entity changed their name to the Territorial Youth Collective and is now part of BYTE – Empowering Youth Society.
- It is anticipated that there will be a future request for funding from GY to support the operational funding of the Territorial Youth Collective.

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

Deputy Minister

Executive Council Office

2025-03-25

Date approved



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

CHAPTER 14 WATER USE DISPUTE	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>The Parties to the Chapter 14 dispute are the LSCFN, Government of Canada, Government of Yukon and Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership (licensee).</li></ul>

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

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

MUNICIPAL UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Town of Watson Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li><li>• The Town of Watson Lake submitted an application to the Board on September 11, 2024.</li><li>• The application is being reviewed for adequacy.</li></ul>

**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

### Budget Operations for Cabinet

Executive Council Office

#### Recommended response:

- This year's Cabinet budget is \$3.4 million.
- This funding provides members of the Executive Council with planning and administrative support services.
- There has been no increase to this budget since 2019–20.
- Details of out-of-territory travel for Ministers are posted to Yukon.ca.

#### Ministers

- \$348,400 in funding is for expenses related directly to the Ministers.
- \$293,400 is allocated for in-and out-of-territory travel for Ministers and their staff, as required.
- \$50,000 is allocated for communication costs (telephones, etc.) for Ministers and their support staff.
- \$5,000 is allocated for other miscellaneous expenses.

	2024-25		2023-24		2022-23	
	Budget	Estimate	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>Travel</b>	293,400	250,000	293,400	384,991	293,400	250,764
<b>Communications</b>	50,000	30,000	50,000	27,415	50,000	27,938
<b>Other Expenses</b>	5,000	10,000	5,000	9,790	5,000	9,344
<b>TOTAL</b>	348,400	290,000	348,400	422,196	348,400	288,046

#### Cabinet Offices support

The Cabinet Offices support budget totals \$3,083,000.

- 98 per cent of this budget funds personnel costs, with the remaining being allocated to office operations (supplies, material, training, etc.).
- There are currently 24 full-time employees budgeted in the Cabinet Office.
  - 14 advisory positions;

**Budget Operations for  
Cabinet**

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Executive Council Office

- 7 administrative positions; and
- 3 executive positions.

**Approved by:**

Justin Ferbey  
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2025 02 05  
Date approved

### Media Monitoring

Executive Council Office

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#### Recommended response:

- Media monitoring and transcription help the public service make informed decisions. This service is provided through a contractor.
- In response to feedback, we worked with the contractor to update the pricing of transcripts to pricing per word rather than pricing per transcript, making most transcript requests less expensive.
- We have streamlined the transcript request process with a request form that connects directly with our vendor.

#### Additional response:

- Transcripts of media coverage are for the use of Government of Yukon staff for internal review, analysis and research.
- As a courtesy, we also provide several arm's-length offices with media monitoring services.

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#### Context – this may be an issue because:

- Opposition parties use the Government of Yukon's media monitoring services and may be interested in any changes to the service.

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#### Background:

- When the last media monitoring and transcription services contract ended, the Executive Council Office was required by government procurement processes to send out a request for proposals.
- The most cost-effective and qualified supplier was awarded the contract.
- The previous vendor's pricing structure included this as part of its service package. The current vendor's pricing structure means that transcription of news broadcasts is an additional charge.

### Media Monitoring

Executive Council Office

- When concerns were first raised about this change, the department worked with the vendor to provide expanded descriptions of each broadcast in the report.
- We were unable to make any further changes within the scope of the contract at the time.

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey  
Deputy Minister  
Executive Council Office

2025 02 05  
Date approved

### **Jim Smith Building Warming Centre**

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Executive Council Office

#### **Recommended response:**

- In December 2023, the Government of Yukon announced the Downtown Whitehorse Safety Response Action Plan, which was updated several times to incorporate public feedback and findings from a Coroner's Inquest.
- As part of this plan, our government executed a pilot project for a warming centre in the Jim Smith Building from March 18 to May 17, 2024.
- Through the warming centre, Yukoners accessed a range of essential services, including computer and internet access, printing, telephone, outreach services, warming areas, snacks and beverages, harm reduction supplies, period products, and washroom facilities.
- Based on positive responses to the warming centre a second year of service was planned, and the centre was opened again November 4, 2024.
- Free individual and monthly bus tickets are also available.

#### **Additional response:**

- The warming space is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.
- The warming space receives in the range of 110 to 229 visits per week.
- We will continue to work with partner organizations such as Blood Ties, the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, the Council of Yukon First Nations, the RCMP and numerous women's organizations to help make Whitehorse safer for everyone.



### Jim Smith Building Warming Centre

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Executive Council Office

- The Government of Yukon is dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable Yukoners and committed to creating a safe, inclusive and thriving downtown Whitehorse.

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#### Context — this may be an issue because:

- In late January 2024 the warming centre was announced by the Department of Health and Social Services and the pilot began during the 2024 spring sitting.

#### Background:

- From March 18 to May 17, 2024, the warming centre had a total of 1,245 visits (note, the same individual can visit multiple times) with an average of 29 visits per day.
- A total of 379 bus tickets were also handed out.
  - This meets the 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement initiative to replace fare-generated revenue for public transit.

<b>Approved by:</b>	
Justin Ferbey	2025 02 05
Deputy Minister	Date approved
Executive Council Office	

Electoral District Boundaries

PLACEHOLDER

### Plebiscite

Executive Council Office

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#### Recommended response:

- We are following through on our commitment to put the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform's recommendation to a public vote.
- We are developing regulations to enable a plebiscite on electoral reform to be held with the November 2025 general election.
- Holding the plebiscite in tandem with the election supports voter turnout and ensures public confidence in the security of the voting process.

#### Additional response:

- The primary result of the public vote will be informing the incoming political administration of public opinion on electoral voting system reform.

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#### Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform final report was tabled on October 28, 2025, with a recommendation for an alternate electoral system for Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon committed to put a recommendation to a public vote to gauge public opinion.

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#### Background:

- The general regulation will set out the procedures for a plebiscite and will require that the Chief Electoral Officer be consulted on the clarity, impartiality and phrasing of the draft plebiscite question before Cabinet sets the question in regulation.
- A second regulation will direct a plebiscite to occur, set the question to be asked, and set a threshold for responses.

### Plebiscite

Executive Council Office

- The Chief Electoral Officer will administer the plebiscite. By giving notice of the plebiscite with general election information and providing to the public the question and basic information on the electoral voting systems identified on the ballot, electors will be prepared to make an informed decision.  
The cost of the plebiscite has been appropriated. The Elections Office, as part of the 2025–2026 budget process, will request the funds.
- The *Plebiscite Act* enables Cabinet to order a plebiscite when public opinion appears necessary or desirable on a specific matter and has broad regulation-making powers.
- Electoral reform is an umbrella term that includes the composition and function of the legislative assembly, voter enfranchisement and turnout, election financing, and electoral voting systems.
- Electoral reform has been examined extensively over the past 20 years. No public votes in Canada have resulted in comprehensive reform.

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey  
Deputy Minister  
Executive Council Office

2025 03 12  
Date approved

### Intergovernmental Relations (General)

Executive Council  
Office

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#### Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon regularly works with other governments, in Canada and abroad, to advance our priorities and ensure our voice is heard.
- We have strong relationships with other provinces and territories and the federal government, and we look forward to continued collaboration on shared priorities.
- Internationally, we are working to promote the Yukon as a place to live, work, visit, and invest.

#### Recommended response (ongoing Premier engagements):

- As the Chair of the Northern Premiers' Forum, I look forward to welcoming my Northern counterparts to the Yukon this coming May.
- I will also continue to meet regularly with my fellow Premiers and the Prime Minister as we navigate changes to the Canada-U.S. relationship.
- The Yukon benefits from working collaboratively with neighbouring jurisdictions on issues of regional and national importance.

#### Recommended response (travel):

- In-person engagements help to cultivate strong, productive relationships with leaders across Canada and the world.
- There are costs and environmental impacts associated with these trips out of territory.
- However, nothing can replace the value of looking people in the eye and listening to what they have to say.

### Intergovernmental Relations (General)

Executive Council  
Office

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- We will continue to weigh the merits of travel carefully to ensure it is cost-effective and environmentally responsible and advances our objectives and priorities.
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#### Context—this may be an issue because:

- Premier Pillai attended in-person meetings of the Council of the Federation and of First Ministers in December 2024 and January 2025.
  - First Ministers have agreed to hold regular meetings on Canada-U.S. relations, following the inauguration of President Trump.
  - Premier Pillai took over as chair of the Northern Premiers' Forum for the 2025 calendar year.
  - Engagements outside the territory may raise questions about costs and climate (emissions) impacts.
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#### Background:

- Since the conclusion of the fall sitting, Premier Pillai has participated in intergovernmental engagements including:
  - In December 2024, the Intergovernmental Forum in Ottawa alongside Yukon First Nation Chiefs and federal ministers. He also met trilaterally and bilaterally with federal officials.
  - Council of the Federation fall meeting, held in Toronto, Ontario on December 15 to 16, 2024.
  - Working meeting of First Ministers in Ottawa, Ontario on January 15, 2025.
  - Council of the Federation Mission to Washington, D.C. on February 12, 2025.

**Intergovernmental Relations  
(General)**

Executive Council  
Office

- Diplomatic engagements, including hosting five Consul Generals from Europe - Germany, Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Switzerland in September 2024; hosting in November 2024 the deputy heads of mission representing the European Arctic: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden; and visiting the Japanese Ambassador to Canada at his residence in Ottawa during December 2024.

<b>Approved by:</b>	
Justin Ferbey	2025 02 05
_____ Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office	_____ Date

### Federal Engagement

Executive Council  
Office

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#### Recommended response:

- We advocate for the needs of Yukoners clearly and consistently to the right people, all the way up to the Prime Minister, to secure important federal investments and policy for the territory.
- Engagement with the federal government ensures the Yukon's distinct perspectives are reflected in federal decision-making on issues of national significance, such as Arctic security and sovereignty.
- We will continue to work with the federal government to advance the Yukon's priorities, including strong and sustainable health care, clean energy, and infrastructure projects that support our prosperity and growth.

#### Additional response (Engagement on U.S. relations)

- The Prime Minister and key federal ministers are in constant contact to respond in a coordinated way to ongoing U.S. relations.
- We actively advocate to ensure the Yukon's interests are heard in the coordinated response.
- 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.
- I will continue to stand up for the Yukon, and for Canada – for our people and for our businesses.

#### Additional response (Yukon Days):

- We continue to work with Yukon First Nations leaders to make our voices stronger in working with the federal government on shared priorities.



### Federal Engagement

Executive Council  
Office

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- This helps to ensure federal decision-makers understand our unique northern context, the issues of greatest importance to Yukoners, and the home-grown solutions that can help tackle our biggest challenges.
- Our governments had a successful Yukon Days this past December, and I look forward to our next opportunity to have additional multilateral engagements with our partners.

#### **Additional response (Intergovernmental Forum):**

- The Intergovernmental Forum is an important table to advance the implementation of the Yukon's modern treaties and self-government agreements with federal ministers.
- The last Intergovernmental Forum took place in December 2024, in Ottawa as part of Yukon Days.
- I look forward to our next opportunity to gather with the Government of Canada and First Nation Leaders for this important Multilateral Forum.

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#### **Context—this may be an issue because:**

- With the Prime Minister stepping down, and the launch of a leadership race, questions may be raised about the Yukon government's engagements with the federal level.

## Federal Engagement

Executive Council  
Office

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### Background:

- The Executive Council Office Intergovernmental Relations branch coordinates engagement with the federal government on the Government of Yukon's priorities.
- Recent areas of focus for federal engagement include:
  - support for the Yukon government's infrastructure priorities, notably clean energy infrastructure (British Columbia-Yukon grid connect), the Yukon Convention Centre, and the redevelopment of the Port of Skagway;
  - regulatory efficiency, specifically the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* targeted amendment on project amendments and renewals;
  - Arctic Security and Arctic Foreign Policy;
  - increased financial flexibilities capacities for the Yukon through our Debt Cap,
  - funding for affordable housing; and
  - measures to support critical minerals development.
- Yukon Days is a longstanding annual event to promote the Yukon's priorities with the federal government and focuses on Premier, Minister and Chief-level advocacy on Yukon priorities with federal leadership.
- This form of engagement helps to fulfil the Yukon government's commitment in the Yukon Forum Joint Action Plan to bring a joint voice to Canada on multilateral initiatives.
- The last Yukon Days took place on December 2 to 5, 2024.
  - On December 3, the Yukon's Premier and several Ministers participated in an Intergovernmental Forum meeting, alongside Chiefs and federal Ministers.
  - Further multilateral conversations occurred with select federal ministers to support focused engagement on specific priorities, notably infrastructure, housing, public safety, and mental wellness.

## Federal Engagement

Executive Council  
Office

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- Topics for the multilateral conversation in 2024 event included housing; the Substance Use Health Emergency; land use planning; salmon management; Indigenous languages; energy and community safety.
- The only Intergovernmental Forum of 2024 was convened in December during Yukon Days.
- The parties to the Intergovernmental Forum Protocol did not agree to define the Yukon Forum held on September 5, 2024, as an Intergovernmental Forum.

**Approved by:**

Justin Ferbey

2025 02 05

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved

## Arctic and Northern Policy Framework

Executive Council  
Office

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### Recommended response:

- The Arctic and Northern Policy Framework is the Government of Canada's vision for the North.
- Several of our government's priorities are reflected in the framework, including access to renewable and affordable energy, a safe and secure Arctic region and investments in infrastructure that can support healthy and prosperous communities.
- We continue to work with the federal government for the benefit of northerners and all Canadians, within and outside of the scope of the framework.

### Additional response (engagement):

- Our government's strategies and priorities on issues from clean energy to health care will continue to guide our work with the Government of Canada, as we consider ongoing engagement on the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework and its governance structures.
- On October 11, 2024, leaders from across the North met to discuss the implementation of the Framework, including Arctic security, Arctic foreign policy, mental health and addictions, housing and infrastructure, and other regional priorities.
- Participating in these discussions is an opportunity to share our interests with the federal government and other Northern leaders.
- We continue to encourage the federal government to match the level of ambition in the Framework with the investments that the North needs.

## Arctic and Northern Policy Framework

Executive Council  
Office

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### Additional response (CYFN and Yukon chapters):

- The Government of Yukon has no intention of publishing a stand-alone chapter. Ultimately, this is a federal policy tool.
- The Government of Yukon co-drafted a Pan-territorial Chapter in 2019 to underline the importance and role of the three territories and highlight key opportunities and challenges the territories share.
- The Yukon continues to work with Canada on issues both within and outside of the Framework.
- Through work with Yukon First Nations governments and public engagement, we developed a set of strategies and action plans that guide our work on issues such as health care transformation, climate and clean energy and economic development.
- These offer 'made-in-the-Yukon' approaches to solving the challenges we face today.
- I applaud CYFN's decision to release their own partner chapter to the Framework this past year.
- The Yukon government will continue to encourage all Yukon First Nations to engage in government-to-government discussions through bilateral and trilateral approaches.

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### Context –this may be an issue because:

- The annual Arctic and Northern Policy Framework (ANPF) Leadership Committee Meeting was held on October 11, 2024, in Iqaluit (hybrid meeting with virtual participation).
- Premier Pillai participated virtually in this forum throughout the day.
- The Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) provided a partner chapter to the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework to Canada on October 16, 2024.
- The Government of Yukon has not released a "partner chapter" to the ANPF.

## Arctic and Northern Policy Framework

Executive Council  
Office

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### Background:

- The framework was released in September 2019 and sets out the federal policy vision for Canada's Arctic and northern regions to 2030.
- The federal government continues to engage with "partners" to the ANPF, including territorial governments, several provincial governments (Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, and Quebec) and northern Indigenous governments and organizations, on implementation.
- There is no implementation plan, nor an investment strategy associated with the Framework.
- While federal announcements occasionally include connections with the ANPF, there is no dedicated source of funds to achieve the Framework's objectives, or for partner governments.
- "Partner chapters" to the ANPF were conceived as a way for other local governments to outline their priorities in the context of the framework's goals.
- A pan-territorial chapter was developed by the three territorial governments and released at the same time as the federal framework.
- It highlights the key opportunities and challenges shared by the three territories, such as infrastructure needs, limited fiscal capacity and collaborative governance.
- The Governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami each released stand-alone chapters.
- The Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) provided a partner chapter to the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework to the Government of Canada on October 16, 2024.
- The CYFN Partner Chapter covers several areas in which the Yukon government holds jurisdiction. It calls on the Government of Canada and Arctic partners, including the Yukon government, to undertake actions related to several related themes including:
  - Language Reconciliation;
  - Knowledge Stewardship and Data Governance;
  - Responding to Climate Crisis;

**Arctic and Northern Policy  
Framework**

Executive Council  
Office

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- o Safeguarding Health and Wellness;
- o Healthy Communities and Livelihoods;
- o Fostering Community Energy Sovereignty; and
- o Safeguarding Arctic and Northern Sovereignty and Security.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work through ANPF mechanisms to advance the full suite of territorial priorities with the federal government.

**Approved by:**

Justin Ferbey  
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2025 01 30  
Date

#### Recommended response (Arctic security)

- Arctic security is key to ensuring the Yukon remains stable, prosperous and safe.
- What territorial leaders have been saying for years is resonating with federal decision makers: that we need a strong, modern military capable of protecting Canada's North in the face of global uncertainty and volatility.
- Between North American Aerospace Defense Command (NOARD) modernization, the defence policy update *Our North Strong and Free*, and the commitment to accelerating our timelines to meet the NATO 2 per cent target, the ambition and effort from Canada is there.
- It is important that the North is involved in the opportunities that come with this generational shift in defence as a national priority.
- This is billions of dollars for Canadian businesses and will boost our global profile and international commitments.
- We are excited about the announcement of the northern military operational support hubs in Iqaluit, Yellowknife, and Inuvik. We see this as the beginning of a larger investment in the north.

#### Additional response (Reserve Unit)

- The Yukon is strategically important and needs more infrastructure investment from Canada, and for the Department of National Defence to have a close look at increasing the military personnel presence in the Yukon.
- In December 2024, the Minister of National Defence and I signed a letter of intent to establish a Naval Reserve unit in the Yukon.



- The Navy and the Department of Defence will undertake exploratory and feasibility work on this important initiative in the summer of 2025, with our government's full support.

#### **Recommended response (Arctic Security Advisory Council)**

- The Council has explored the risks that the Yukon faces, and how we can leverage opportunities to support economic development and infrastructure in our communities.
- It was with great excitement that the Council released its report on November 19, 2024.
- The report gives our government guidance on how to move forward with the Government of Canada on the significant defence investment opportunities, building physical infrastructure that supports security, and creating capacity in people and Yukon business to meet security challenges.

#### **Recommended response (Canadian Institute for Arctic Security)**

- Our government has initiated work to develop a Canadian Institute for Arctic Security, supported by a grant from CanNor.
- The project is funded until March 2026 to a total of \$373,000, shared 80 per cent and 20 per cent between the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) and the Yukon government.
- The objective of the project is a feasibility study and business case for the institute to exist outside of government, and for a series of pilot reports, public commentary, events and public talks to demonstrate the type of work and value the Institute will be able to deliver.

- As the first of its kind in Northern Canada, the Canadian Institute of Arctic Security will be uniquely and singularly positioned to guide information and knowledge into the North, and outwards to influencers and decision-makers in the South.
- 

#### **Context—this may be an issue because:**

- On December 2, 2024, the Premier and Minister of National Defence signed a letter of intent to explore establishing a Naval Reserve unit in the Yukon.
  - On November 21, 2024, the Premier and CanNor announced funding for the Arctic and Northern Security Centre Project, the Canadian Institute for Arctic Security (CIAS).
  - On January 5, 2024, the Premier announced the establishment of the Arctic Security Advisory Council. The council's report was publicly released on November 19, 2024.
  - Security and defence in the North have a national profile in the context of the ongoing invasion of Ukraine and increasing activity and interest in the Arctic by Russia, China, and others.
-

#### Background:

##### Arctic Security

- On March 6, 2025, the federal government announced they will build northern military operational support hubs in Iqaluit, Yellowknife, and Inuvik. Defence Minister Bill Blair promised there will be more to come as Ottawa ramps up its military footprint in the Arctic.
- The hubs are the cornerstone of the federal government's Arctic security strategy, which committed \$2.67 billion over 20 years to building them.
- The Premier has had many engagements on this topic, including regular connections with the Minister of National Defence and Joint Task Force North.
- Northern Premiers delivered consistent messages to the Prime Minister, other Premiers, and other Arctic leaders about investments in Arctic security and the connections between strong communities, robust infrastructure, and Canadian sovereignty. Messages have focused on the importance of northerners driving decision making.
- Operationally, the Yukon government maintains contact with the Department of National Defence and Joint Task Force North to understand the operational conditions regarding security.

##### Canada's Defence Policy Update, NATO two per cent, and NORAD modernization,

- The federal government announced *Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada's Defence* on April 8, 2024. It will be implemented with an investment of \$8.1 billion over five years, and \$73 billion over 20 years.
- The policy recognizes the urgency and importance of asserting Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic and Northern regions.
- It includes \$218 million over 20 years for "Northern Operational Support Hubs" to expand the military's presence in the North, and to establish or enhance multi-use infrastructure that meets the needs of Northern communities.
- At the Western Premiers' Conference in June 2024, Premiers called on the Government of Canada to work towards the NATO target of spending two per cent of GDP on defence.

- In July 2024, during the NATO conference in Washington, D.C., the Government of Canada made commitments to reach the NATO two per cent goals by 2032.
- During an interview on January 24, 2025, Defence Minister Bill Blair stated it is achievable for Canada to meet NATO's military investment benchmark of two per cent of gross domestic product by 2027. The official deadline has not changed, but Minister Blair is focused on accelerating the timeline.
- In 2022, Canada announced plans for NORAD modernization, to a total of over \$33 billion over twenty years.

#### Canadian Institute for Arctic Security

- The CIAS project is funded until March 2026 and will develop recommendations on the long-term sustainability and mission.
- The Institute is currently operating under the advisement of a Development Board and focused on building a brand to increase its public visibility, and digital platform for dissemination of content related to security.
- A Research Board will be established later in 2025 to guide research and programming and build original content that can be delivered to the North.
- The Institute is looking at public engagements throughout the project term.

#### Arctic Security Advisory Council

- The Council was mandated to develop a report for government that assesses risks across the Yukon security landscape; identifies priority assets and infrastructure and future opportunities for dual-use infrastructure; and areas of focus for the Government of Yukon's work with the Government of Canada to enhance security across the region. The report was delivered on November 19, 2024.

#### Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2025 03 10

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

#### Recommended response:

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

#### Additional response (Diplomatic Visits)

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

#### Additional response (International Visits)

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

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

#### Additional response (costs):

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

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#### Context — this may be an issue because:

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

#### Background:

##### Diplomatic Visits

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

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

UK Mission 2024

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

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2025 02 04

Deputy Minister

Executive Council Office

Date approved

Spring 2025

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

Executive Council  
Office

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### 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.

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### 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:



**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

**TAB #1**  
**Spring 2025**

## 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.

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### 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)

	<a href="#">2023 Q4</a>	<a href="#">2024 Q4</a>	% Change
Single-detached house	\$627,400	\$657,900	3.0%
Condominium	\$416,000	\$611,900	7.2%

#### Yukon rents and vacancies (YBS)

	<a href="#">October 2022</a>	<a href="#">April 2023</a>	<a href="#">October 2023</a>	<a href="#">April 2024</a>
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	<a href="#"># of new residential permits</a>
2020	657
2021	635
2022	416
2023	429

#### Residential building construction, Yukon (YBS)

	<a href="#">January-December 2023</a>	<a href="#">January-December 2024</a>
# 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.



# Session Briefing Note

**TAB #1**  
**Spring 2025**

## 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 <sup>th</sup> 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	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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seven residential lots in Haines Junction, Mayo and Watson Lake; and</li> <li>three industrial lots in Teslin and Haines Junction</li> </ul> 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).
August 2024	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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twelve lots are available in Carmacks and Faro</li> <li>21 country residential lots are available in the Lone Tree subdivision north of Teslin.</li> </ul>
June 2023	Government of Yukon partnered with the Government of Canada and the City of Dawson to develop four new residential lots in Dawson.
February 2023	120 lots, including single family, multi-family and townhouse lots in Whistle Bend made available through public lottery.

### 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>884</b>

### 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>663</b>
<b>Average Years</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>

\*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
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>324</b>

### 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

\*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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>328</b>

\*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
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>324</b>
<b>Average Years</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>

\* 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.

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**Spring 2025**

## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>\$94,000.00</b>

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>206</b>

## 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>



## 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100</b>

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>195</b>

### 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>159</b>

### 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>77</b>

**Session Briefing Note****TAB #1  
Spring 2025****Housing Landscape**

Yukon Housing Corporation

Emergency stream:

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

# Session Briefing Note

**TAB #1**  
**Spring 2025**

## Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Wildfire Grants stream:

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

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

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson  
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

April 25, 2025  
Date Approved

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

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

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**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.

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- 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.

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- 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.



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**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.

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**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.

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**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**  
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- 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**

### **Our Clean Future Implementation**

**Spring 2025**  
Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

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#### **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.
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**Additional response:**

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## **Session Briefing Note**

### **Our Clean Future Implementation**

Environment and Energy,  
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  - 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**

Environment and Energy,  
Mines and Resources

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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Our Clean Future  
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- 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 Estimates No. 2 – Overview

**Embargoed until tabled**

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#### Recommended 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. The net increase in O&M spending is forecast at \$106.4 million when accounting for recoveries.
- 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. The resulting net increase in capital spending is forecast at \$12 million. These adjustments are primarily driven by cost pressures in land development projects and the Nisutlin Bay bridge replacement.
- Budgetary revenues are projected to increase by \$7.8 million, primarily due to a \$4.3 million increase in the personal income tax revenue forecast, a \$2.2 million increase to fuel tax revenue forecasts, and a \$3 million increase in loan interest from the Victoria Gold corporation receivership.
- 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. Moreover, the additional \$55 million of funding for the Victoria Gold receivership is provided as a loan, which offsets the impact of these expenditures on the budgetary surplus.

#### FTEs:

- There is an increase of 23.4 in FTEs (Full-time Equivalents) for the Supplementary Estimates No. 2. This includes 18.5 FTEs for

## Session Briefing Note

### 2024-25 Supplementary Estimates No. 2 – Overview

**Embargoed until tabled**

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Emergency Medical Services in response to increasing call volumes, and a fully recoverable term FTE for a First Nations Cancer Navigator through the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. There is also one new FTE for a First Nations Language teacher at the Whistle Bend School and 3.9 FTEs to reflect new teacher positions within the Commission Scolaire Francophone du Yukon.

#### **Additional response:**

- The Supplementary Estimates O&M increase of \$114 million is mainly driven by the following pressures:
  - **Eagle:** \$55 million in advances to the Receiver for environmental protection work at the Eagle Gold Mine;
    - Funding advanced to the receiver has a net zero impact on the surplus and net financial debt, as the Yukon government has priority to recover these advances from the assets of the company.
  - **Health:** \$13 million for Insured Health pressures, \$1.5 million for additional Yukon Hospital Corporation operating funds, \$3.2 million to support emergency medical services operations, \$3.0 million for legislated grant programs at Health and Social Services.
  - **Education:** \$9.1 million for increases in the Collective Agreement with the Yukon Association of Education Professionals and \$4.7 million for the TPA with the First Nation School Board.
- The Supplementary Estimates for capital reflects various adjustments based on updated timelines and estimated costs:

## Session Briefing Note

### 2024-25 Supplementary Estimates No. 2 – Overview

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Increases include:

- \$11.7 million for accelerated work on the Nisutlin Bay bridge replacement project;
- \$10 million to address capital pressures related to ongoing land development projects;
- \$2.9 million to support the completion of the Mental Wellness Unit at Whitehorse General Hospital;
- \$2.8 million for accelerated work for reconstruction on the North Klondike highway.

While decreases include:

- Combined decreases of \$5.5 million due to updated cash flow forecasts and revised timelines for major school replacement projects;
  - \$2.3 million decrease for the Watson Lake solar project, due to updated forecasts reflecting revised timelines;
  - \$1.9 million decrease for the Dempster Fibre line project due to lower-than-expected capital costs.
- Despite these increases in O&M and capital expenditure, forecasted interest costs for short-term borrowing on the Yukon government's line of credit are unchanged from the first supplementary estimates. This is due to continued interest rate reductions since the first supplementary estimates were tabled, as well as improvements in the timing of cash flows, with increased recoveries being received sooner in the year.



## Session Briefing Note

### 2024-25 Supplementary Estimates No. 2 – Overview

**Embargoed until tabled**

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#### Special warrant:

- In January 2023, the Government of Yukon issued a special warrant to ensure that essential government programs and operations could continue without disruption until the Supplementary Estimates No. 2 could be introduced and debated in the Yukon Legislative Assembly.
- The special warrant was necessary to ensure that essential work could continue at the departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, Highways and Public Works, and Community Services.
- As required under the *Financial Administration Act*, the amounts authorized under this special warrant are included in the *Third Appropriation Act 2024–25* so that the Legislative Assembly can review and debate this funding.

#### Special warrant (additional responses):

Specific funding included in this special warrant was as follows:

- \$51.8 million in operations and maintenance funding in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to ensure that the department could continue to deliver on major commitments during this fiscal year, including loan advances to the Receiver for Victoria Gold.
- \$10 million in capital funding in the Department of Community Services to ensure that the department could continue to advance land-development work, which has seen higher-than-expected productivity across the construction sector this fiscal year.
- \$8.4 million in operations and maintenance for the Department of Highways and Public Works to maintain service levels and ensure the

# Session Briefing Note

## 2024-25 Supplementary Estimates No. 2 – Overview

**Embargoed until tabled**

**TAB #01**  
**Spring 2025**  
Finance

safe, reliable operation of the Yukon's transportation infrastructure and government-owned buildings.

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### Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2024-25 *Third Appropriation Act* is tabled in the fall session and will be the subject of debate.

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### Background:

- Supplementary Estimates are introduced annually by the government to account for unforeseen spending at the time of tabling the annual Budget. It is common to have one or two spending updates throughout the fiscal year.
- They are tabled during the fall and spring sessions, debated and voted on in the legislature and provide departments with increased spending authority for O&M and Capital for the current fiscal year.
- See attached:
  - Appendix A for 2024-25 Supplementary Estimates #2 information on FTEs by department.

### Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

February 20, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved

2024-25 Supplementary Estimates #2							
Government of Yukon - Summary of Operations & Maintenance							
FTE's by Department							
Dept	2024-25 Mains	2024-25 Supp #1	2024-25 Supp #2	Change	Details		
					Type	FTEs	Rationale
YLA	15.2	15.2	15.2	0.0	-	-	No change
ELEC	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	-	-	No change
OMB	9.0	9.0	9.0	0.0	-	-	No change
CYAO	6.4	6.4	6.4	0.0	-	-	No change
ECO	112.8	112.8	112.8	0.0	-	-	No change
CS	221.1	223.1	223.1	0.0	-	-	No change
EcDev	63.2	63.2	63.2	0.0	-	-	No change
EDU	1,253.5	1,264.3	1,269.2	4.9	Permanent	3.9	Commision Scolaire Francophone du Yukon
					Permanent	1.0	Whistle Bend School - First Nations Language teacher
EMR	294.7	294.7	294.7	0.0	-	-	No change
ENV	253.4	253.4	253.4	0.0	-	-	No change
FIN	76.7	80.7	80.7	0.0	-	-	No change
FLSD	43.2	43.2	43.2	0.0	-	-	No change
HSS	1,616.4	1,645.2	1,663.7	18.5	Term	1.0	Canadian partnership Against Cancer - First Nations Cancer Navigator
					Permanent	9.0	Emergency Medical Services - Whitehorse ground ambulance
					Permanent	4.0	Emergency Medical Services - Float Program
					Permanent	4.5	Emergency Medical Services - Whitehorse air ambulance
HPW	783.1	783.1	783.1	0.0	-	-	No change
JUS	312.1	313.1	313.1	0.0	-	-	No change
PSC	158.0	158.0	158.0	0.0	-	-	No change
TC	112.7	112.7	112.7	0.0	-	-	No change
WGED	12.2	12.2	12.2	0.0	-	-	No change
YHC	69.2	69.2	69.2	0.0	-	-	No change
YLC	70.0	70.0	70.0	0.0	-	-	No change
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,484.9</b>	<b>5,531.5</b>	<b>5,554.9</b>	<b>23.4</b>			

  

Changes	Total	%
Term	1.0	4%
Permanent	22.4	96%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: An FTE is a full-time position budgeted for the entire fiscal year. Due to rounding numbers may not exactly match.

## **Session Briefing Note**

**Spring 2025**

### **Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

Finance

**Embargoed until day of budget tabling**

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#### **Recommended response:**

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

#### **Additional response**

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

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

Finance

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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

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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.

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**Context — this may be an issue because:**

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

# Session Briefing Note

**Spring 2025**

## Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

**Embargoed until day of budget tabling**

### Background:

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

### Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

February 25, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date Approved