



Legislative Assembly
Briefing Binder
Spring 2025

**French Language
Services Directorate**



FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Legislative assembly briefing notes

SPRING 2025

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Recommended response:

- We are committed to supporting departments in broadening the access and availability of bilingual services to the public.
- We are actively working on developing and improving solutions that will help empower Yukon government employees and expand capacity to deliver key services and information to the public in French.
- We are deploying a live video interpretation service in key areas. This service supports immediate and seamless French-language services when bilingual employees are unavailable.

Additional response:

- We continue to support access to bilingual healthcare services and have increased the number of bilingual services providers from 32 to 36 (including Social Services employees)
- We are equipping and training Yukon hospitals and emergency medical services with the video interpretation service. Additionally, we have provided several Mental Wellness and Substance Use offices with the same service.
- Several social workers at Victim Services also have access to this service.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Expectations from French-speaking Yukoners have grown following the signing of a \$28M agreement with the Government of Canada to fund French-language services in Yukon from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Background:

- In the last year, FLSD started to operate under a new structure focused on streamlining its processes with departments and redesigning its programs and services to better fulfill its mandate and support departments in complying with the Yukon Languages Act:
 - For the 2024-2025 year, a total of 76 Designated Bilingual Positions (DBP) are strategically located across departments* to provide a wide range of services in French to the public.
 - We have improved the effectiveness of DBP by identifying public-facing positions for designation and reallocating designations to ensure these positions are prioritized for designation in alignment with FLSD's mandate.
 - FLSD commits \$350,000 annually to the Yukon Hospital Corporation to help support the provision of bilingual healthcare services to the public in both the Whitehorse General and Dawson City Community hospitals.
 - We are working with departments to identify, develop plans for piloting and maintain designated points of service (DPS) to provide consistent services in French (e.g., reception desks and transactional services).
 - In collaboration with the Department of Environment, we are piloting a three-year project to enhance the availability of bilingual services at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre. 2025 is the third year of this pilot project. Data from the 2024 season demonstrates that visitors to the Tombstone Interpretive Centre can receive services and information in the language of their choice, French or English.
- We continue to focus our French language training and linguistic support services exclusively to Government of Yukon employees to empower them in providing wide-ranging services and information in French to the public.
- We introduced a new French-language skills assessment model to better support departments' staffing efforts. The new model is more flexible and rooted in the practical needs of employees serving the public bilingually.

Increased services in French

FLSD

* Excluding 26 bilingual service providers at the Whitehorse General Hospital and the Dawson City Community Hospital.

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet
Deputy Minister, FLSD

02/05/2025

Recommended response:

- We strive to provide timely and accurate information to Yukoners in both English and French.
- We are leveraging existing communications channels and developing new ones, like the Wildfire Hub, to share relevant and valuable bilingual information to the public quickly.
- Yukoners can follow us on social media at @LeYukonFr to learn more about our programs and services and our latest news in French.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Keeping people safe and increasing our bilingual emergency responsiveness is one of the priorities of the 2023–25 Strategic Framework for French-language services released in November 2023.

Background:

- In 2023–24, FLSD started operating under a new structure to better support departments and public bodies in complying with the Yukon Languages Act.
- The Bilingual Communications division has transitioned from being process-driven to client-focused, expanding its centralized services, which include:
 - providing standardized translation;
 - managing government's French-language social media (@LeYukonFR) and web presence, such as Yukon.ca, Flood Atlas, Wildfire Hub and other online products; and
 - offering strategic advice and support to help departments effectively communicate and connect with French-speaking audiences.

Improved bilingual communications

FLSD

- The division is also optimizing its processes, making the best use of its translation tools, and redesigning its programs to serve departments more efficiently and cost-effectively while meeting the increasing demand for translation services and fast turnaround times.
- As artificial intelligence is changing the communications and translation industries, the division is actively seeking opportunities to increase its expertise and use technologies to their full potential while following corporate guidance and addressing any challenges.

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet
Deputy Minister, FLSD

02/05/2025

Increase access to services in French for legal aid and legal education

FLSD

Recommended response:

- Improved access to justice in French is a long-standing priority for French-speaking Yukoners.
- In the fall of 2024, FLSD entered into a funding agreement with Canadian Heritage totaling \$ 690,000 over three years to improve access to French-language services in armlength organizations providing legal aid and legal education.

Additional response:

- FLSD is collaborating with the department of Justice, the Yukon Public Legal Education Association (YPLEA), a non-profit organization providing legal information to the public and the Yukon Legal Services Society (YLSS), providing legal counsel and advice at no or very low cost to remove barriers in accessing justice.
- Services in French are not systematically available in these two points of services. They are provided on an *ad hoc* basis.
- With this agreement, FLSD increases its commitment under the Canada-Yukon Agreement on French Language Services.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2023 modernization of the *Official Languages Act* of Canada highlights the importance of supporting, protecting and promoting sectors essential for the vitality of official language minority communities, like the justice sector, a shared competence between Canada and provinces/territories.
- The inclusion of a linguistic clause related to proceedings in Section 23 of the *Divorce Act* in 2021 might result in more pressure on the Justice system.

Increase access to services in French for legal aid and legal education

FLSD

Background:

- Justice Canada supports the delivery of legal services in the Yukon, including services provided in French, through the Canada-Yukon Agreement Respecting Access to Justice Services 2022-2023 to 2026-2027.
- As this agreement could not be amended, FLSD entered a temporary bridge funding agreement with Heritage Canada to close the gap identified in the provision of legal services in French. We anticipate that Justice Canada will integrate the new services established under the project in future agreements.
- This project aligns with one of the priorities of the 2023-2025 Strategic Framework for French language services, "Increase access to French-language legal services surrounding the court system, such as legal aid, victim services and family law support."

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet
Deputy Minister, FLSD

02/05/2025

Leveraging technologies to increase access to healthcare services in French

FLSD

Recommended response:

- The French Language Services Directorate (FLSD) and Health and Social Services (HSS) are collaborating on a 5-year project to implement innovative technologies to strengthen the accessibility of healthcare services in French across the territory.
- Health Canada and Canadian Heritage have increased their commitment by \$1.5 million over 5 years (2023-2028) under the current Canada-Yukon agreement on French-language services to support the project.
- The collaboration between FLSD and HSS has already resulted in the ability, beginning January 2025, for Yukoners to indicate French as their preferred language of service on the new Yukon healthcare cards.
- Data from the FR feature on the healthcare card will be used to better plan for future services.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon has one of Canada's most compelling language regimes*.
- Complying with the Yukon Languages Act and increasing access to French-language services requires thoughtful and comprehensive planning and delivery of services rooted in language policy.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- This initiative places YG at the forefront of the Canadian francophone sector in terms of language policy and the planning and delivery of French-language services.

Leveraging technologies to increase access to healthcare services in French

FLSD

- We anticipate there will be growing attention from local and national stakeholders and the media toward the end of the project.
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Background:

- This project supports the recommendations of the *Putting People First* report and vision to build a system that is inclusive, cooperative, and promotes equality.
- It also supports one of the priorities of the 2023-2025 Strategic framework for French-language services, “Strengthen our health infrastructure capacity to deliver timely primary care services in French.”
- FLSD engaged with the French-speaking public and organizations in December 2022 and released the What We’ve Heard report “French-Language Services: Exploring the Next Steps” on June 14, 2023. Access to timely health care services has been, and remains, a high priority for French-speaking Yukoners for over a decade.
- The first strategy focuses on collecting healthcare data to determine patients' preferred language of care, while the second targets the development of digital solutions to improve access to French-language healthcare services in the Yukon. The digital solution strategy will undergo testing at two selected service points of HSS.
- By testing the strategies, FLSD and HSS will be able to identify best practices for delivering health care services in French.

*According to Madam Justice Hubbart in *Kilrich Industries Ltd. v. Halotier*, 2007 YKCA 12 (47)

Approved by:

Phillippe Mollet

Deputy Minister, FLSD

02/05/2025

Canada-Yukon Agreement on French language services

FLSD

Recommended response:

- We signed a new three-year Canada-Yukon Agreement on minority-language services from \$6.1M per year starting April 1, 2025, for a total of \$18.3M.
- The new agreement will enable the directorate to build on previous successes and empower departments and public bodies to provide timely bilingual services and information to Yukoners.
- Our government is more committed than ever to improve the way we serve, inform, and communicate with Yukoners in French.

Additional response:

- Under the previous \$28 million 2020-25 agreement, we completely restructured the French-Language Services Directorate and modernized the government's approach to service delivery in French.
- The 2025–28 agreement will allow us to consolidate our achievements and keep building momentum, enhancing Yukoner's access to services and information in French.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- This renewed agreement may generate expectations around access to French-language services and information from the public and stakeholders.

Canada-Yukon Agreement on French language services

FLSD

Background:

- Funding for 2025-2028:

2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
\$6.1M	\$6.1M	\$6.1M

- Funding increase since 2007:

2007-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-21	2021-22	2022-25	2025-28
\$1.75M	\$3.99M	\$4.76M	\$5.25M	\$5.5M	\$5.75M	\$6.1M

- The Governments of Canada and Yukon have worked together to provide French-language services to the Yukon public since 1988.
- In the first Canada-Yukon agreement signed in 1988, the Government of Canada committed to “[...] provide funding, on an ongoing basis, under contribution agreements, to bear all the costs incurred in developing, enhancing and implementing French language rights and services in the Yukon”.
- The 2020-2025 agreement aligned with the government’s 2023-2025 Strategic Framework for French-Language Services and the priority to support a thriving Francophone community.

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet,

Deputy Minister, FLSD

03/05/2025

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Government priority:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to improving health care for all Yukoners and expanding access to primary health care services in the territory.

Key Messages:

- The Government of Yukon is working to expand access to primary care services across the Yukon.
- The Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre accepts approximately 100 new clients per month from the waitlist and provides same-day services to clients.
- We remain committed to connecting every Yukoner with a primary care provider, as outlined in recommendation 2.2 of Putting People First. Efforts include hiring more health care professionals and supporting innovative service delivery models.

Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre:**Speaking notes:**

- The Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre first opened its doors on November 7, 2022. The clinic is located at 9010 Quartz Road.
- Registered clients can access primary health care services by booking an appointment in advance, or using same-day appointments reserved for urgent or emerging primary health care needs.
- The application process for the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre is designed to ensure that all Yukoners who want the

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opportunity to obtain primary health care services have the chance to provide relevant information and give their informed consent.

- Applications are reviewed and prioritized by a team of health care professionals at the clinic. Acceptance or waitlist status is determined by the capacity of the clinic's primary care providers and pre-established population health determinants.
- The population health determinants include several considerations such as current attachment to a primary care provider, complexity of care needs, and need for services in French or interpretation support, among others.
- The current and target staff complements, based on operational need, are:

Position	August 2024	Target
Clinic Manager	1	1
Nurse Practitioners	5	5
Registered Nurse	1 + 1 AOC	1
Licensed Practical Nurse	1 + 1 AOC	1
Medical Office Assistants	2 + 2 AOC	6
Social Worker	1	1
Contract Physician	3 part time (0.9 FTE)	1 full time

Background:

- As of February 2025, there have been a total of 3,710 eligible applications for the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre.
- As of January 2025, a total of 2,357 clients had received their first appointment and have been connected with a primary care provider.
- If someone is not initially accepted, they will be added to the waitlist and notified when the opportunity for an intake is available.
- The clinic's current roster of primary care providers would be able to support up to 5,000 clients, provided that sufficient support staff are available.

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- Intakes are ongoing, and Constellation is taking a triaged approach to ensure that those requiring immediate access receive it.
 - In 2025 –26, we budgeted **\$2.66M** (\$2,655,935) for the Centre de Santé Constellation Health Centre.
 - The clinic is supported by three part-time contract physicians including one French speaking physician who provides consultation services and patient care.
 - There are currently eight bilingual staff members.

Collaborative care:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to expanding collaborative care and integrating allied health professionals in primary health care settings. The aim is to create teams that work together to support community health and wellness.
- We continue to work with the Yukon Medical Association and other stakeholders via a number of pathways, including the Joint Management Committee Work Plan, to identify effective ways to implement team-based care across the territory.
- We are exploring opportunities to integrate allied health professionals, such as mental health professionals, social workers and chronic disease nurses, into primary health care practices to enhance the quality of care.
- The development of team-based care models involves careful consideration of various complex factors, including patient needs, allied health human resources and clinic capacity.
- This work aligns with the broader goals of Putting People First and supports our objective to provide Yukoners with high-quality, timely care from the most appropriate provider.

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Community Health Centre closures:

- We acknowledge the challenges faced by our community health centres, particularly those related to staffing shortages that sometimes result in temporary service reductions or closures.
- Our government recognizes the essential role that health centres play in communities and the impact that service reduction and closure place on communities.
- It is important to note that health centres are not emergency rooms. They are not open 24/7 and do not provide all types of urgent acute care.
- During service reductions, the health centres typically remain open during their regular daytime hours.
 - No community is left without access to urgent care. A nurse remains on-site, and paramedics are in place for after-hours and emergency response.
- In the case of full closures, YEMS paramedics are stationed in the community to ensure continuity of emergency services and patient transport.
- Like many other jurisdictions, the Yukon is facing a health human resource challenge, particularly in rural areas. These challenges are resulting in difficult decisions, including temporary service reductions and closures at some of our community health centres.
- We are proactively notifying impacted communities of service reductions as per our standard practice. These forecasts are dynamic and may change daily as staffing is confirmed or adjusted.
 - We notify RCMP, EMS and local First Nations as soon as we become aware of anticipated changes to services.

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- A float team is in place to provide dynamic coverage to community health centres and reduce closures.
- Community Nursing health centres do not fill patient prescriptions.
- Community Nursing Primary Health Care nurses administer and dispense medications in emergency situations and for short-term episodic care needs.
- All prescription medications for ongoing care needs are filled by pharmacies and not by the local health centre. Patients in Pelly Crossing can have their prescriptions filled at a pharmacy in Whitehorse and the medication is then shipped directly to them via mail by the pharmacy.
- Pelly Crossing residents will still have access to prescriptions through mail order services. Pharmacies also provide customers an option to pick up medications from Whitehorse.
- **Closures:**
- The Pelly Crossing Health Centre may see service reductions or closures from April 30 to May 20 due to staffing shortage. This is as a result of the ongoing national health human resource shortage, which continues to impact our ability to consistently staff remote and rural community health centres.
- **Service reductions:**
 - **Teslin:** Anticipated reduced services from April 25 to 30.
 - One Primary Health Care Nurse will remain in community to offer urgent and emergent care.
 - Full services are expected to resume on May 1.
 - We are working with EMS to provide after-hours emergency coverage.
 - **Carcross:** Anticipated reduced services from April 25 to 30.

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- One Primary Health Care Nurse will provide urgent and emergent care.
 - This gap may shorten as we work to confirm additional staff hours.
 - Full services expected to resume May 1.
- **Faro:** currently experiencing reduced services from April 16 to April 30.
 - One Primary Health Care Nurse is providing urgent care.
 - Full services expected to resume May 1.
 - We are working with EMS provide emergency coverage during this period.
- **Ross River:** We are anticipating a services reduction from April 24 to April 29.
 - One Primary Health Care Nurse will remain on site to deliver urgent and emergent care.
 - EMS has confirmed a paramedic will be stationed in Ross River to provide after-hours emergency care and transport.
 - Full services are expected to return April 30.
- On the evening of April 22, the phones at the Ross River health centre were temporarily forwarded to 911 emergency response due to staff illness. This was not anticipated.
- Residents can still call 911 or use the phone outside the health centre to reach emergency services
- We know this can be difficult and concerning for affected residents. We are doing everything we can to close these staffing gaps including continued recruitment efforts.

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Community Health Centres:

Community	Staff on site	Vacancies	Closures
Dawson	1 Community Health Nurse in Charge 1 Community Health Nurse 1 Admin Assistant	0	No closures in December
Watson Lake	1 Community Health Nurse in Charge 1 Community Health Nurse 1 Admin Assistant	0	No closure in December 2024
Old Crow	1 Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge 1 Primary Health Care Nurse 1 Admin Assistant	.5 FTE PHCN Nurse in charge	No closure in December 2024
Ross River	1 Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge 1 Primary Health Care Nurse 1 Admin Assistant	0.5 FTE Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge 0.5 FTE Primary Health Care Nurse 1 FTE Admin Assistant	Reduction of Services 1 Primary Health Care Nurse in community April 24 to 29 Yukon EMS Primary Care Paramedic in community
Faro	1 Primary Health Care Nurse in	0	Reduction of Services from April 16 to 30

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	Charge 1 Primary Health Care Nurse 1 Admin Assistant		
Beaver Creek	1 Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge 1 Admin Assistant	.5 FTE Nurse in Charge PHCN	No closure in December 2024
Carcross	1 Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge 2 Primary Health Care Nurse 1 Admin Assistant	1 PHCN	Reduction of Services from April 25- 30
Mayo	1 Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge 1.5 Primary Health Care Nurse 1 Admin Assistant	0.5 Primary Health Care Nurse	No closure in December 2024
Haines Junction	1 Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge 3 Primary Health Care Nurses 1 Admin Assistant	0	No closure in December 2024
Destruction Bay	1 Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge 1 Admin Assistant	0. 5 FTE Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge	No closure in December 2024
Carmacks	1 Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge	0	No closure in December 2024

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	3 Primary Health Care Nurse 1 Admin Assistant		
Teslin	1 Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge 1 Primary Health Care Nurse 1 Admin Assistant	0	Reduction of Services from April 25- 30
Pelly Crossing	1 Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge 1 Primary Health Care Nurse 1 Admin Assistant	1 Primary Health Care Nurse 1 Admin Assistant	Closure April 30- May 20 Yukon EMS Primary Care Paramedic in community

Hearing Services:

- Hearing Services has been experiencing prolonged wait times for hearing assessments due to ongoing audiologist vacancies since September 2022.
- Effective mid-November 2024, there is limited capacity to conduct hearing aid consultations and fittings due to a recent retirement. The vacancy has been advertised since November 2024.
- All clients referred for hearing assessments are triaged and prioritized based on clinical need. The current wait times for hearing assessments are:
 - urgent care – up to one week;
 - pediatrics – up to three weeks;
 - high priority – up to three weeks;

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- medium priority – 24 to 30 months; and
 - low priority – three plus years.
- Clients can obtain hearing assessments privately at their own expense or using private insurance coverage.
- At this time, Hearing Services is focusing available hearing aid consultation appointments on priority groups, including:
 - children needing hearing assessments;
 - adults with sudden hearing loss; and
 - individuals experiencing debilitating tinnitus due to exceptional auditory complications.
- There is a waitlist for clients needing hearing aid consultations who do not fall into the priority groups.
- Hearing Services can provide the results of the hearing assessment to the client to bring to a private clinic if clients choose to purchase their hearing aids privately.
- We are actively recruiting to fill vacant positions, and we encourage interested applicants who meet the requirements to apply.
- Currently, we are utilizing private contractors to see the highest priority clients while we explore other options that best meet the needs of Yukoners.
- For the 2024-25 fiscal year, Hearing Services contracted four licensed audiologists who travelled to Whitehorse to provide direct client care for Hearing Services clients on our urgent, priority one and priority two waitlists for both pediatrics and adults.
- Currently, to support the 2025/26 fiscal year, a Request for Standing Offer for audiology services is posted on Bids and Tenders. This will create a list of licensed and experienced audiologists the Hearing

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Services Program can draw from for clinical service provision as needed.

- The program continues to recruit for audiologists and an audiometric technician. We are recruiting across Canada and internationally.

Whitehorse Vaccination Clinic:

- The clinic is a satellite location for the Whitehorse Health Centre and is operating as the Whitehorse Health Centre – NVD Place.
 - The Whitehorse Health Centre – NVD Place offers COVID-19 and seasonal influenza vaccinations, as well as appointments for publicly funded vaccines for people over the age of five.
 - Routine publicly funded vaccines and programming continue to be offered at the Whitehorse Health Centre (9010 Quartz Road), with a focus on patients under five years of age.
 - Yukoners are also encouraged to contact pharmacies, which have COVID-19 and seasonal influenza vaccination appointments available.
- The Whitehorse Health Centre offered services to clients during the temporary closure in September.

Background:

- The Whitehorse Vaccine Clinic space plays a critical role in ensuring vaccine security and informing how we design our vaccination programming. The controlled environment of the clinic guarantees the safe handling and storage of vaccines, which is essential for the integrity of the mass immunization programs offered there.
- During peak immunization periods,
 - The Whitehorse Health Centre primarily operates by appointment to manage demand effectively.

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- Walk-in services may be available during less busy times, offering flexibility for those who prefer not to schedule in advance.
- Vaccines are available at various locations, including pharmacies and health centres across the territory. The decision not to offer other publicly funded vaccines, such as Shingrix or HPV, at the vaccine clinic is based on programming models and logistical requirements specific to the space. However, these vaccines are still accessible through pharmacies and other public health clinic sites.
- As of the beginning of 2025, there has been a total of 8,196 vaccines administered since the satellite clinic opened on September 27, 2023. The flu vaccine remains available, and we are actively coordinating with pharmacies to keep them informed about the status of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Whitehorse Walk-in Clinic:

- The Department of Health and Social Services opened the Walk-in Clinic on December 18, 2023.
- On April 29, 2024, the Walk-in Clinic opened at its permanent location at 108 Jarvis St. in the Mah's Point building.
- The walk-in clinic continues to provide care for people without a primary care provider during operating hours.
- The clinic is staffed by a multidisciplinary team including two permanent Nurse Practitioners and physicians contracted to provide regular clinic hours.
- There is an active Expression of Interest on Yukondocs.ca to recruit additional physicians to work at the Walk-in Clinic. We continue to work with our partners at Yukon Medical Association to recruit various part time contract physicians to provide primary care at the Walk-in Clinic.

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- The Walk-in Clinic has no Government of Yukon staff vacancies and is staffed by one clinic manager, two nurse practitioners, two licensed practical nurses, three medical office assistants, and one social worker.
- As of February 2025, the clinic has provided care to 2,900 clients.
- We budgeted **\$1.31M** for 2025-26 to support the operations of the Whitehorse Walk-in Clinic.

Yukon Communicable Disease Control

- Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC) provides testing, screening and resources for sexually transmitted diseases and communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis.
- The YCDC clinic at #4 hospital road is available on an appointment and drop-in basis for anyone to access free and confidential Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infection testing and treatment, pregnancy testing, emergency birth control and needle stick injuries. Clients do not require a primary care provider or a Yukon Health Care number to access services.
- This is a high-volume clinic that supports the majority of Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infection testing in the territory.
- In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, YCDC is responsible for the surveillance, prevention, monitoring, and control of all communicable diseases throughout the territory in usual and outbreak situations.
- YCDC provides case management for reportable communicable diseases either in clinic or in consultation with health care providers (physicians, Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, etc.) across the Yukon. This includes Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C.

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- The team of Infectious Disease Nurses at YCDC are seen as experts in management of Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections and provide advice and guidance daily to health care providers across the territory. This is accomplished in coordination with the consulting Infectious Disease Specialist for complicated cases.
- Guidelines developed by YCDC and the Chief Medical Officer of Health are available on Yukon.ca to guide health care providers in the care and public health management of reportable communicable diseases.
- With close collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada, as well as Provincial and Territorial counterparts, YCDC completes critical surveillance and reporting on all reportable communicable diseases as well as consultation and input into federal communicable disease workplans and guidelines.
- The YCDC program is supported by:
 - 7 FTE Infectious Disease Nurses
 - 1 Infection Control Coordinator
 - 1 Nurse in Charge
 - 1 Clinical Manager
 - Three Medical Office Assistants and 1 Lab and Data entry Assistant.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Insured Health Coverage**Health and Social
Services

Government priority:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting the health care needs of Yukoners through insured health coverage and benefits that are easy to access, equitable and evidence based.

Key messages:

- We continue to explore ways to optimize the overall health care system by improving the patient experience and outcomes, the health of the population, the efficiency of the system, health equity, and the provider experience.
- The Putting People First report recommendations highlight opportunities for improvement in insured health coverage and adjacent services. We are making progress.
- We are exploring opportunities for the best value for the health care dollar to ensure the sustainability of our health care system for Yukoners for generations to come.
- Transitioning patients, eligible under the Chronic Disease and Disability Benefit Program and Pharmacare Program on biological medications to safe, effective and low-cost biosimilars is one step we are taking to achieve longevity in our health care insurance program.
- The department completed work to reduce the costs associated with reimbursements for drugs on the public formulary on December 4, 2024 by streamlining processes between pharmacists and Insured Health Services.

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- Our government is working with our federal, provincial and territorial colleagues on Canada's National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases.
- This work includes determining how the 3-year funding commitment totaling \$1.4 billion can be used by provinces and territories to support the implementation of the National Strategy.
- In the main estimate for 2025-26, we are requesting an increase of \$47.1M to meet the costs of insured health services in response to our aging and growing population.

Children's Drug and Optical Program:

- The Children's Drug and Optical Program helps cover the costs of prescription drugs and eye care for children aged 18 and under. This program is for lower-income families.
- The program is available to provide coverage for services such as prescriptions, eyewear and eye examinations, and Physician recommended medical supplies, prenatal vitamins and wart treatments.
- Benefits are administered in accordance with the *Children's Drug and Optical Program Regulation*.

Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits Program:**Speaking notes:**

- The Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits program supports eligible Yukoners under the age of 65 to help cover some costs associated with managing their chronic disease or disabilities.
- The program supported 1,257 clients in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

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- As of January 20, 2025, 1192 people are enrolled this 2024-25 fiscal year
- A chronic disease is defined as a health condition that is marked by long duration or frequent recurrence and is specified in the *Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits Regulation*.
- The program provides coverage for approximately 80 chronic conditions, which are determined by regulation.
- As indicated under section 17 of the Regulation, the Director of Insured Health has the authority to designate a chronic condition as eligible for coverage.
 - This process is based on evidence, best practices, coverage in other Canadian jurisdictions, and legislative criteria, including the definition of chronic condition outlined in the Regulation.
 - Under this authority, alcohol-use disorder has been designated as a chronic condition. Eligible beneficiaries of this program who are diagnosed with this condition may receive coverage for naltrexone or acamprosate. Both medications have been demonstrated to reduce cravings for alcohol.
- The Chronic Disease and Disability Benefit program is accessed by application submitted by the prescriber and client. If eligible, the request is covered under the *Chronic Disease and Disability Regulations*.
- Appeals on decisions can be submitted to the Director of Insured Health Services via letter or email for review on a case-by-case basis.

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- Work is underway to determine pathways to develop a more formalized appeals or complaint policy subject to legal review and recommendation.

Background:

- The Chronic Disease and Disability Benefit Program is a legislated payer of last resort.
 - If a person receives payment under any other Act or insurance, no amount can be paid through the program, except to the extent that the benefit does not cover the entire cost of service.
- Removal of the deductible would require regulatory amendment.
 - Depending on income level, a client may not have to pay a deductible amount.
 - The deductible is waived for palliative clients and those who are on social assistance.
 - The Regulation provides authorization for the director to reduce the prescribed deductible amount.
- The Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits program provides:
 - Drug coverage;
 - Medical surgical supplies such as, syringes, diabetic supplies, prosthetic garments and more;
 - Medical equipment including manually operated hospital beds and electric wheelchairs;
 - Prostheses and orthotics.
- As of 2024, the Chronic Disease and Disability Benefit Advisory Committee is not active.
- Insured Health Services is exploring ways to engage partners and patients on their care journey and recognize that the advisory group may be one option.
- Insured Health Services uses experts and resources including Pharmacists, Nurses and organizations such as Canada's Drug Agency to update and evaluate coverage.

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Federal Pharmacare:

Speaking notes:

- The federal government announced new pharmacare measures on February 25, 2024. The draft legislation, Bill C-64, received royal assent on October 10, 2024 and passed into law.
- The *Act Respecting Pharmacare* sets out a framework for a national pharmacare program. In the short term, the federal government will provide coverage for contraception and diabetes treatment.
- Department officials are working with federal counterparts to understand what the program means for the Yukon and how these new measures can strengthen our existing Pharmacare and Extended Health Benefits programs.
- We are working on gathering more information on the proposed pharmacare plan to make an informed decision on how best to proceed and to prevent duplication and complication among existing programs within Insured Health Services.
- Coverage for birth control is currently available to youth enrolled in the Children's Drug and Optical Program and for social assistance recipients.
- All supplies required to manage diabetes such as insulin, insulin syringes, insulin pumps, lancets, test strips and glucometers are currently covered through Insured Health Services.
- More work is anticipated to understand what coverage will look like for all Yukoners with the intent to ensure equity of access regardless of coverage.

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Background:

- Putting People First recommends working with the federal government to support a model of care for a national pharmacare program.

Insured Health Spending:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting Yukoners to access the services they need, including medically necessary travel both in and out of territory.
- Medical travel subsidies are legislated under the Travel for Medical Treatment Act and Regulations, and as such, the Department of Health and Social Services is obligated to deliver the insured health care that Yukoners expect and rely on.
- The department is seeing increased pressures on Insured Health, including medical travel, due to Consumer Price Index increases in recent years, our growing and aging population and the complexity of care needs as a result.
- In the pursuit of ensuring Yukoners have access to high quality care, the Department of Health and Social Services has enhanced coverage under the Medical Travel Program in recent years this includes:
 - Increasing the medical travel subsidy which is now tied to inflation based on the Consumer Price Index. This fiscal year the subsidy is \$174 per day for overnight outpatient services, and \$88 for same day travel and approved escorts.
 - The addition of travel for fertility treatment and surrogacy services under the Travel for Medical Treatment Regulations this fall 2024;

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- In December 2022, the Yukon became a national leader in providing access to gender-affirming care services and completed regulatory amendments to allow Yukoners to receive health care insurance and medical travel coverage for gender-affirming care and;
 - In 2022 in response to the Substance Use Health Emergency, Insured Health Services extended coverage to include out of territory residential treatment to ensure Yukoners are able to receive medically necessary mental wellness and substance use care.
- The Department of Health and Social Services processed a total of 11,048 subsidy form applications in 2023-2024 which is a substantial increase over 2021-2022's fiscal year wherein 8,163 subsidy forms were processed.
- Likewise, Out of Territory Medical travel cases have increased from 2,671 in 2021-2022 to 3,838 in 2023-24. This has resulted in an increase of scheduled flights booked by the program, from 7,523 in 2021-2022 to 13,744 in 2023-24.
- In 2021-2022 both in and out of territory Medical Travel subsidy costs totalled \$3.2M (\$3,183,488) in 2023-2024 these costs amounted to \$4.5M (\$4,515,601).
 - In the 2024-25 Supplementary budget Medical Travel subsidy has been allocated \$6.4M (\$6,420,000) for operations and maintenance costs and is reflective of year-over-year growth in

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demand alongside the addition of new and expanded coverage programs.

- In the 2025-26 Medical Travel is requesting **\$23.5M** (\$23,507,000) to support the ongoing provision of care outside one's home community as needed.

New health care cards:

- The Department of Health and Social Services has developed and begun the distribution of new territorial health care cards as of January 2025.
- The new cards replace the stickers and are being rolled out over the next year. The new card is received through the mail about a month in advance of the current card's expiration date. No one will be required to attend the Insured Health office to receive their new card.
 - This initial issuance of new cards has been done with staggered expiration dates.
 - After the initial issuance, cards will be reissued every five years.
- The new health care cards will enhance the security, integrity, and quality of the cards. However, instances of known fraud using the current health care cards are limited.
- As part of the new health care card features, Yukoners can specify if their preferred language of care is French and add French characters to their name to match their official ID.
- Photos are not included in the initial rollout; however, the department is working to add photos as soon as the capacity is available.

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- Photos have been excluded from the initial roll out so as to support and simplify this process.
- Cards may begin to host photos within 12 to 18 months of the initial roll out.
 - At this point, in-person attendance will be required, more information will be provided as we get closer to achieving this stage.
 - Photo exemptions will be provided for Yukoners who may not be able to attend in person.
- To support the initial roll out, the Department allocated **\$475K** (\$475,000) in the 2024-25 budget.
- In 2025-26 we are allocating an additional **\$300K** (\$300,000) to support continued rollout and anticipated photo bearing cards.
- The Department of Health and Social Services will continue to receive monthly migration reports from provinces and territories indicating Yukon card holders who are now receiving health care coverage under another jurisdiction.
- As part of the work on the new health care card we are exploring options to ensure plan beneficiaries continue to meet eligibility requirements.

Pharmacare and Extended Health Benefits Program:

- This program assists individuals over the age of 65, as well as Yukoners between the ages of 60 and 64 who are married to a Yukon resident who is 65 or older.

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- The program is available to support with coverage such as prescription drugs, dental care, eye care, and medical-surgical supplies and equipment.
- Benefits are administered in accordance with the *Pharmacare Plan Regulation* and the *Extended Health Benefits Regulation*.
- The program is a regulated payor of last resort.

Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan:

- The Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan provides legislated coverage for Physician and hospital services, travel for medical treatment, and a suite of extended benefits.
- Coverage is for eligible Yukon residents. A resident is defined as anyone lawfully entitled to be or remain in Canada, who lives in the Yukon and is not absent for more than six months. This does not include tourists or other visitors to the Yukon.
- Enrollment in the Children's Drug and Optical Plan:
 - 55 people were enrolled in the 2022-23 fiscal year.
 - A total of 46 people were enrolled during the 2023-24 fiscal year.
 - As of January 20, 2025, 39 people are enrolled this 2024-25 fiscal year
- Enrollment in the Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits Program:
 - 1,204 people were receiving benefits in the 2022-23 fiscal year.
 - A total of 1,257 people received benefits in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

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- As of January 20, 2025, 1,192 people are enrolled this 2024-25 fiscal year
- Enrollment in the Pharmacare and Extended Health Benefits Program:
 - 6,616 people were receiving benefits in the 2022-23 fiscal year.
 - A total of 6,773 people received benefits in the 2023-24 fiscal year.
 - As of January 20, 2025, 6,866 people are enrolled this 2024-25 fiscal year
- Extended benefits are provided to status First Nations, Metis, and Inuit through the federal government's Non-Insured Health Benefits program.
 - This includes coverage for pharmaceuticals, vision care, dental care, medical supplies and equipment and medical travel.

Approved by:

Matt King

February 3, 2025

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

Date Approved

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

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Francophone Immigration

Spring 2025

Economic Development

Background:

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

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

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Settlement Services

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Economic Development

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

Settlement Agencies:

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

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

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Immigration Strategy

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

If asked about timeline:

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
Deputy Minister, Economic Development

February 4, 2025
Date approved

French Immersion – Programming, Enrolment and Staffing

Education

Value:

- The Department of Education offers French second language programs to students, and we work with our partners and school communities to address the long-term needs of these programs.

Recommended response:

Programming

- Currently, the overall student demand for French Immersion programming is being met.
- The Government of Yukon plans to continue École Selkirk Elementary School as a 'dual track' English program/French Immersion school.
- The department has committed to long-term planning for French as a second language programs with the French Second Language Advisory Committee.
- The French Second Language Advisory Committee includes representation from the Department of Education, School Councils, Canadian Parents for French, school administrators and teachers.

Early French Immersion (Kindergarten):

- Early French Immersion is a popular program in Whitehorse, offered at Whitehorse Elementary school and École Selkirk Elementary school.
- For the 2024-25 school year the department offered one class (18 kindergarten seats) at Selkirk Elementary school and three classes (54 kindergarten seats) at Whitehorse Elementary school, for a total of 72 seats.

French Immersion – Programming, Enrolment and Staffing

Education

- Kindergarten registration for French immersion was open from February 4 to February 16 for the 2025-26 school year. Kindergarten registration for English programs remains open.

French Immersion teacher recruitment:

- The department continues to monitor and plan for enrolment in French Immersion including the recruitment of qualified French language teachers. French language teachers are in high demand across Canada. Recruiting for these positions remains a challenge.
- The department attends job fairs both in person and virtually at post-secondary institutes where there are qualified French language teachers, to help with targeted recruitment efforts.
- The department has increased advertising on job boards in post-secondary institutions that offer French language education programming.
- On November 13, 2024, the department launched a recruitment video, which specifically highlights French language education programming across the Yukon.
 - This video will be used as part of recruitment marketing efforts, to promote educator opportunities in the Yukon for French Immersion, Pre- and Post-Intensive French, Core French and positions with Commission scolaire Francophone du Yukon.
- The department has continued with pooled competitions and early posting for teaching positions in French Immersion elementary schools, thanks to the dedication of school administrators and superintendents.

French Immersion – Programming, Enrolment and Staffing

Education

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is considerable interest in French second language programming and there may be questions about access to this programming, particularly in early grades.

Background:

Programming

- All Yukon schools under all school authorities, including those offering French Immersion, are expected to follow British Columbia curriculum and graduation programs.
- French Immersion elementary schools may follow different philosophies for teaching reading; however, they are both expected to follow British Columbia curriculum.
- The balance of instructional time between the two languages may differ at Selkirk and Whitehorse Elementary, but the long-term learner outcomes are the same.
- French Immersion is a popular program in Whitehorse, and is offered at Whitehorse Elementary School, Selkirk Elementary School and F. H. Collins Secondary School.
- Retention in French Immersion tends to decline in high school, and current forecasts indicate that the program at F.H. Collins Secondary will be sufficient to meet the demand.
- Whitehorse Elementary School is a 'single track' school offering only French Immersion programs. Selkirk Elementary School and F. H. Collins Secondary School are 'dual track' schools meaning that both French Immersion and English language programs are available.

Early French Immersion (Kindergarten) registration for 2025–26 school year:

- The kindergarten registration information night was held virtually on January 22, 2025, for the 2025–26 school year.
- Registration closed on Sunday, February 16, 2025 and parents whose child was offered a space needed to accept it by February 28, 2025.

French Immersion – Programming, Enrolment and Staffing

Education

- If the demand for Early French Immersion registration exceed capacity, the department uses a lottery system for admission to these programs and/or review the number of seats available.
- By the end of March 2025, every parent will get an email that officially confirms their child's spot in a school.
- As of January 8, 2025, there are no students on the waitlist for French Immersion for the 2024–25 school year.

Early French Immersion 2024–25 school year:

- For the 2024–25 school year, French Immersion seats are still available to families wishing to enroll their child at the kindergarten or grade 1 levels.
 - As of January 8, 2025:
 - Whitehorse Elementary School has 1 seat available in kindergarten and 16 seats in grade 1.
 - Selkirk Elementary School has 0 seats available in kindergarten and 7 seats in grade 1.
- Since 2015–16, when the demand for Early French Immersion registration began to exceed capacity, the department has used a lottery system for admission to these programs, run with Canadian Parents for French.
- Every year since the lottery process has been in place, all students who desire a place have been able to enroll in French Immersion in kindergarten or grade 1.

French Second Language Advisory Committee:

- The French Second Language Advisory Committee was formed in 2010 to strengthen French as a Second Language education in the Yukon.
- This advisory body includes representation from the Department of Education, School Councils, Canadian Parents for French, school administrators and teachers.
- Education has committed to long-term planning for French as a second language programs and a vision statement has been created in spring 2023 in collaboration with the French Second Language Advisory Committee.

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Tab# SP07
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French Immersion – Programming, Enrolment and Staffing

Education

Approved by:

[Mary Cameron](#)

[2025-01-28](#)

Deputy Minister, Department of Education

Date approved

For School Capacity: Refer to HOT11/SI06

Value:

- Education works collaboratively with the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon to support the learning needs of French Minority Language students and the path for the administration of French Minority Language education in the territory.

Recommended response:

- The Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon's leadership and vision are crucial in shaping the future of education in the Yukon, and the Department of Education is eager to hear about the initiatives and goals in their new strategic plan.
- The department is pleased to report that, for a second year, French Minority Language students have access to an in-person French-language program of instruction in Dawson.
- The Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon, the Department of Education, and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have established an effective working relationship, and officials will continue to navigate and approach the work ahead together.
- The CSSC Mercier graduation rate for the 2023-24 school year was 100%.

Additional response:

- The 2024-2025 Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) has a value of \$10,692,804 with funds withheld for Yukon government personnel employed at Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon schools in the amount of \$9,651,558. The net value of the TPA is \$1,041,246.

CSFY – Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon

Education

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon grew significantly in the last few years by adding a program of instruction in Dawson and taking the lead in managing the Garderie du petit cheval blanc,
 - The November 2025 school board election has the potential to overlap with the 2025 Yukon general election which will be held on or before November 3, 2025.
-

Background:

- As of December 2024, CSSC Mercier is at 107% of its operational capacity of 150 students, and École Emilie Tremblay is at 73% of its operational capacity of 302 students.
- As of December 31, 2024, Department of Education's data indicate 405 students are enrolled in Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon schools for the 2024-2025 school year.
- The Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon was created in 1996 and is responsible for education in French as a first language throughout the territory through the following schools and programs:
 - Three schools:
 - École Émilie-Tremblay Elementary School, four-year-old kindergarten to grade 6;
 - Paul-Émile-Mercier Secondary School Community Centre, grades 7 to 12; and
 - École Nomade School, virtual and homeschooling program, five-year-old kindergarten to grade 12.
 - One Program:
 - Programme Confluence - a French first language program in Dawson, for students four-year-old kindergarten to grade 7.
 - The program also offers services to children under the age of 4.
 - One early learning and child care program:
 - Garderie du petit cheval blanc

CSFY – Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon

Education

In-person French Minority Language program of instruction in Dawson

- The department is continuing to work with the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, as the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon moves forward with their implementation of the French Minority Language program in Dawson.
- The Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon rents space at 486 King Street in Dawson for the in-person French Minority Language program of instruction.
- As of December 31, 2024, 14 students were enrolled in the Programme Confluence: pre-K to grade 5.
- Under the terms of the agreement, the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon will provide an in-person French Minority Language instruction program in Dawson for a minimum of three years during the period 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- Before the end of school year 2024-2025, The Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon will assess the ongoing need and suitability of the program.
- A letter of agreement between the Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in was signed on August 30, 2024. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon subsequently shared information with Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon regarding this agreement.
- Funding for 2024-25 and 2025-26 will follow the existing Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon funding agreement.
- The government is not constructing a school facility for the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon in Dawson as part of the agreement.
- Department officials continue to meet with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon officials regularly.

Garderie du petit cheval blanc early childhood education and child care

- In September 2023, the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon officially became manager of the Garderie du petit cheval blanc, an establishment offering early childhood education and after-school programs.
 - This transition, supported by the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon school community and the organization previously managing the day care, ensures the establishment's future.

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Tab# EP03
Spring 2025

**CSFY – Commission scolaire
francophone du Yukon**

Education

Approved by:

Mary Cameron

2025-03-05

Deputy Minister, Department of Education

Date approved

Summary of accomplishments

FLSD

FLSD works in partnership with YG departments and other public bodies to support the delivery of publicly accessible services and information in French. Our accomplishments are the result of successful collaboration with them.

Accomplishment	Significance
<u>January 2025</u> Government of Yukon launched its new health care cards with the option to show French as the preferred language of care	Yukoners can now specify if their preferred language of care is French and add French characters to their name to match their official ID. Collecting data on preferred language of care will help the government plan for health care services. FLSD developed a new online course to support health sector employees in connecting French-speaking Yukoners to the service.
<u>July 2024</u> FLSD entered a 3-years funding agreement with Canada for a project related to improving access to justice in French	FLSD, the Yukon Department of Justice, the Yukon Law Services Society and the Yukon Public Library Education Association are working together to strengthen the delivery of French-language services in these NGOs providing legal aid and education. This \$690k project falls under a bridge funding agreement with PCH, and it is expected to be taken over by Justice Canada starting 2027.
<u>January 2024</u> In partnership with HSS, FLSD secured an additional \$2.2M federal funding to lead a five-year digital health project.	FLSD and HSS are engaged in a 5-year research project aimed at developing two strategies to collect data and expand access to French-language health care at two pilot points of service. This will help us identify best practices for delivery health care services in French.

Summary of accomplishments

FLSD

<u>November 2023</u> The Legislative Assembly tabled the 2023-25 Strategic framework for French-language services	<p>The 2023–25 framework helps guide the government's actions and investments to keep current with the evolving priorities of the growing Yukon French-speaking community.</p> <p>The four priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• leveraging technology.• keeping people safe.• recruiting and supporting bilingual employees; and• supporting a thriving French-speaking community. <p>The framework echoes the feedback gathered from Yukoners and stakeholders regarding areas of success, potential improvements and future actions to enhance access to French-language services and information.</p>
<u>October 2023</u> In partnership with CS, <i>L'heure du conte</i> , a new activity for the Whitehorse Public Library clients	<p>The Whitehorse Public Library offers songs, stories, play and movement in French for children aged 2 to 4 and their families through the new weekly <i>L'heure du conte</i> (Story time).</p>
<u>October 2023</u> In partnership with HSS, Bilingual services available through the Health Promotion Unit	<p>Students in Yukon schools have access to bilingual sexual health prevention sessions.</p> <p>All Yukoners have access to bilingual smoking cessation services.</p>
<u>June 2023</u> In partnership with HSS and CS, increased access to Emergency and Primary healthcare in French	<p>FLSD has equipped all Yukon Hospitals and Whitehorse-based ambulances with interpretation services.</p>

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Summary of accomplishments

FLSD

<u>May 2023</u> In partnership with Environment, Bilingual services available in Tombstone Territorial Park	The Tombstone Interpretive Centre staff delivers services and information in French to visitors.
<u>April 2023</u> CS New online Wildfire Hub launched	CS launched the bilingual Wildfire Hub at the beginning of the 2023 wildfire season to strengthen public safety and provide information regarding potential fire impacts. This new tool also supports YG's bilingual emergency responsiveness.

Approved by:

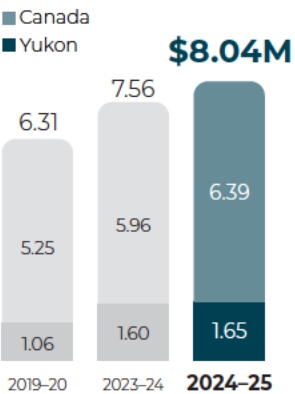
Philippe Mollet
Deputy Minister, FLSD

02/05/2025

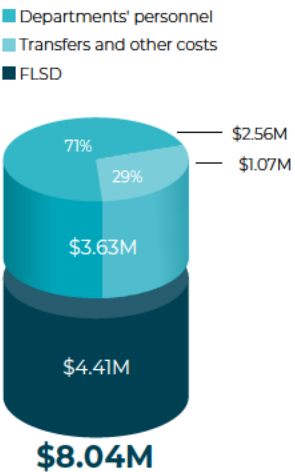
FLSD AT A GLANCE

(JANUARY 2025)

Funding for French-language services



Allocation of funding (2024-25)



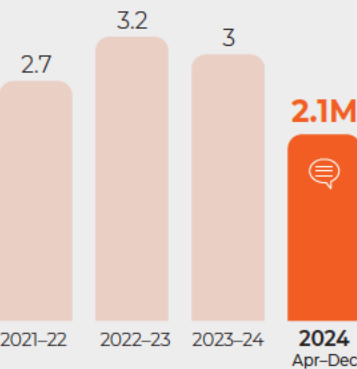
Designated bilingual positions (DBP)

Health and Social Services	36
Justice	13
Highways and Public Works	4
Tourism and Culture	4
Community Services	3
Education	3
Energy, Mines and Resources	3
Workers' Safety and Compensation Board	3
Environment	2
Public Service Commission	2
Economic Development	1
Executive Council Office	1
Women and Gender Equity Directorate	1



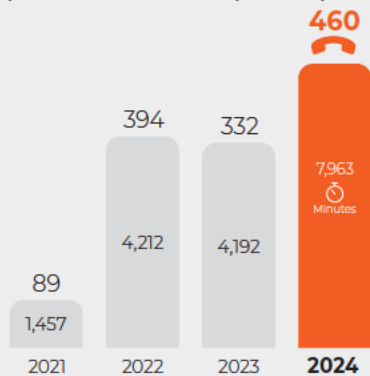
Translation

Number of words



Interpretation

Number of calls (video + over-the-phone)



Top five languages requested (2024)

- French
- Spanish
- Ukrainian
- Cantonese
- Mandarin



Training and language support (2024)

51

people signed up for the online Active Offer training *Hello, Bonjour – Your role in providing service in French*

32

participants took part in *French Catch-up* workshops to improve their French grammar, communication skills and confidence

93

learners from the Yukon government and Yukon Hospital Corporation took French-language classes with a third party supported by FLSD

37

people signed up for a new online course *Confident French: Self-guided journey*, focused on advanced French grammar and complex sentence structures

26

people enrolled in the self-paced online course *Basic French for Healthcare Workers*

9

public-facing employees received one-on-one weekly language support catered to their position



Communications

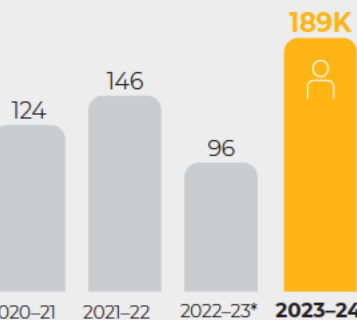
Social media @LeYukonFr

Number of posts

1,453

945

Number of people who saw content from or about @LeYukonFr



*Fewer social media posts

2020-25 Highlights

With the 2020-25 Canada-Yukon Agreement on French-language services coming to a close, we are laying the groundwork for the next one. We will build on our key accomplishments to continue supporting departments and public bodies in delivering services and information in French.

- Modernized policy framework:** We updated the policy framework for French-language services, supporting a one-government approach to consistent services and information in French.
- Expanded interpretation services:** We introduced remote video interpretation, improving French-language service access, especially in the health sector.
- New strategic framework:** We developed the third Strategic framework for French-language services, mapping the Yukon Francophone community priorities with government goals.
- Improved translation capacity:** We upgraded our translation tools, resulting in faster, more accurate and cost-effective translations, helping us deliver a consistent voice for the government in French.
- New organizational structure:** We restructured to become more client-focused, significantly enhancing our ability to provide support, guidance, and strategic advice based on language policy and planning.
- Revamped French-language training:** We shifted from regular classes to tailored workshops and one-on-one support, boosting employees' proficiency and expanding public access to French-language services.
- Increased financial support:** We secured \$2.2 million over five years to create strategies to increase access to health care services in French and \$600,000 over three years to increase access to legal services.

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

Recommended response:

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

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

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

Additional response:

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

Session Briefing Note

2024-25 Supplementary Overview (Corporate Note)

Embargoed until tabled

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

February 24, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved

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

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

Recommended response:

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

Additional response

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

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

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

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

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

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

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

Background:

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

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

February 25, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date Approved

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

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

Response to Tariffs

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

- While we are relieved that the “Reciprocal Tariffs” Executive Order does not result in new tariffs for Canada, we remain concerned about the considerable tariffs which remain.
- The tariffs imposed by the U.S. administration challenge the U.S.’s reliability as a trading partner.
- As the U.S. Administration continues to be impulsive in their decisions relating to tariffs on Canadian goods, we will hold steady on our response until all threat of tariffs have been removed.
- U.S. tariffs on Canadian imports are deeply concerning and will harm workers and businesses on both sides of the border.
- These tariffs are unjustified, harmful to economic stability, and run counter to the spirit of free and fair trade that has defined our relationship for decades.
- While we value our relationship with the United States, we will not accept unfair trade practices that threaten Canadian jobs and prosperity.
- The Government of Yukon has developed a path forward to support a strong Team Canada response to see these tariffs lifted and to limit the impact on Yukoners.
- As part of our initial response, our government will:
 - Reduce purchasing products of American origin, such as liquor;
 - Limit U.S. business access to government procurement;
 - Mitigate impacts on Yukon businesses through the development of an assistance program;

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Economic and Trade Impact of Tariffs

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

First Ministers' Meetings

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Canada-US relations

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

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

- The Yukon-U.S. two-way merchandise trade in 2023 stood at \$150.1 million, down from \$240.5 million in 2022. Roughly 85 to 95 per cent of this annual trade is with Alaska.

Yukon government's April 3, 2025 response

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

Yukon government's March 4, 2025 response

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

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ECO TAB 3a

Spring 2025

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

- Support "Buy Yukon" campaigns: Support the development of buy local campaigns organized by local chambers of commerce.
- Break down interprovincial and international trade barriers: Through the Department of Economic Development, work with Yukon chambers of commerce and provincial and territorial partners to reduce barriers to internal trade and promote access to non-U.S. markets.

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2024 04 07

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved

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

Recommended response:

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

Additional response (federal government changes in policy):

- The Government of Yukon will continue to work with our federal counterparts to ensure we remain compliant to any evolving regulations or changes to carbon pricing programs at the federal level.
- All federal Liberal party candidates, along with the federal leaders of the other parties, have signaled that they will end or significantly change the consumer carbon pricing program. The end of the federal carbon price means that the Yukon would no longer receive revenues to sustain the carbon rebate program.

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

- The Yukon's carbon rebate is revenue neutral, and on average, Yukoners receive more than they pay in carbon pricing levies.
- We have written to the federal government, requesting collaboration on a systematic wind down of the Yukon carbon rebate program. We have also urged the cancellation of the carbon levy increase planned for April 1, 2025.
- Carbon pricing is just one tool to address climate change. Our plans outlined in Our Clean Future extend beyond any federal programming. Our government will continue to aspire to meet our greenhouse gas emissions target by 2030.

Third response:

- The departments of Environment and Finance continue to work with federal counterparts to assess the implications of carbon pricing on large industrial emitters that are subject to the Output Based Pricing System in the territory and ensure the needs of the Yukon are recognized in national policy.
- The Output Based Pricing System is separate from the consumer carbon price. Canada is currently conducting a review of that system.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- On February 25, Yukon's Minister of Finance issued a statement confirming that he had written to the federal government, requesting collaboration on a systematic wind-down of the Yukon carbon rebate program and urging the cancellation of the planned carbon levy increase set for April 1, 2025.
- Carbon pricing remains a sensitive topic across the country with many provinces and territories voicing their own perspective on how they would like to see this pricing mechanism handled moving forward.

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

- The federal carbon pricing system is expected to be a central talking point as part of any forthcoming federal election.

Background:

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

Approved by:**Dennis Berry**

Deputy Minister of Environment

March 10, 2025

Date approved

Jessica Schultz

Deputy Minister of Finance

March 10, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

Recommended response:

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

Additional responses:

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

Economic and labour market

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

Finances

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

Local procurement

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

Independent Review Board

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

Historic overview

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

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

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

Approved By:

Sierra van der Meer	April 29, 2025
Deputy Minister Energy, Mines and Resources	Date Approved
Justin Ferbey	2025 04 22
Deputy Minister Executive Council Office	Date Approved
Jessica Schultz	April 25, 2025
Deputy Minister Department of Finance	Date Approved

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

Context:

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

Background:

Section 1: Yukon population

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

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Section 2: Housing statistics

Average Whitehorse house prices (YBS)

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

Yukon rents and vacancies (YBS)

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

New residential permits issued, Yukon (YBS)

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

Residential building construction, Yukon (YBS)

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

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

City of Whitehorse, new housing completions ([CMHC](#))

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

Section 3: Capital projects recently completed by YHC or partners

Since 2022:

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

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

YHC projects completed 2022-2024

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

Major partnership projects completed 2022-2024

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

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

YHC projects underway

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

Major partnership projects underway or completed

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

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Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

YHC projects planned

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

Section 5: Support for new residential land development

September 2024	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"> seven residential lots in Haines Junction, Mayo and Watson Lake; and three industrial lots in Teslin and Haines Junction 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"> Twelve lots are available in Carmacks and Faro 21 country residential lots are available in the Lone Tree subdivision north of Teslin.
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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TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

Length of RGI tenancy as of April 24, 2025

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

*The longest running tenancy is 29 years.

Section 7: Waitlist

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

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

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

Community	Employee
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Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

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

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

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

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

Time on Waitlist based on Secondary Status

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

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

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

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

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

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

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

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

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

Section 9: Loans and Grants programs

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

Developer Build Loan Program

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

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

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

MMRCP

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

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

Grants stream:

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

Loans stream:

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

Accessibility stream:

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

Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Emergency stream:

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

Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Wildfire Grants stream:

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

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

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

April 25, 2025
Date Approved

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

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

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

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

Third response

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Inflation – Recent performance and outlook

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

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

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

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

HOUSING

Capital projects supporting housing affordability

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

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

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

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

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

Winter Electrical Affordability Rebate (Yukon Development Corporation)

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

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

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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

Affordable Heat Pump Program (Energy, Mines and Resources)

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

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Dental Care program (Health and Social Services)

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

Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement (Health and Social Services)

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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

Social Assistance Review (Health and Social Services)

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

FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

Universal Child Care Program (Education)

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

Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund (Education)

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

Food in Schools program (Education)

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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

Fertility Tax Credit (Finance)

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

Yukon Child Benefit (Health and Social Services and Finance)

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

Out of Home Childcare Increases (Health and Social Services)

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

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Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

BUSINESSES and COMMUNITIES

Paid sick leave program (Economic Development)

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

Yukon Trade Resilience Program (Economic Development)

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

Curbside Recycling (Community Services)

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

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

April 15, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

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

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Implementation

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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.

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Implementation

Spring 2025
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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.

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

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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

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

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

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

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

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