

Women and Gender Equity Directorate

Briefing Notes – Spring Session

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WGED accomplishment notes

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

Recommended response:

- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate has made progress on several major initiatives, in partnership with other departments, governments, and organizations, including:
 - Implementation of the second year of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence by:
 - Funding twenty NGO projects over the first two years of the agreement, for a total amount of \$2.2M;
 - Funding three Yukon First Nation government projects focused on land-based camps and workshops for men and boys, totaling \$300,000;
 - Completing a collaborative program review in partnership with equity-seeking organizations.
 - Supporting the Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+ by:
 - holding the third accountability forum for Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy in October 2024;
 - leading the development of the first annual report;
 - supporting the creation of two new committees to lead implementation and accountability of the work, respectively.
 - Coordinating the LGBTQ2S+ Action Plan, including an engagement from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and allies that will inform the final two years of the action plan's implementation;
 - Supporting the Department of Justice with planning for the expansion of services to sexualized assault victims beyond Whitehorse to Yukon communities, including the release of a What We Heard report; and

WGED accomplishment notes

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

- Completing the updating of consequential regulations for the Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity (MACWAGE) Act and appointing a new chair and six new members to the Council's two sub-committees.
- In addition to this work, the Directorate has also made progress on other mandate items, including:
 - Continuing to lead the implementation of Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis; and
 - Supporting projects working with men and boys to end gender-based violence.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- WGED is leading several wide-reaching and high-profile initiatives, including the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, the Yukon's Strategy on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People and the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan.
- Equity-seeking NGOs that are funded through WGED continue to highlight concerns about their funding levels and challenges with maintaining services with rising demands and increasing costs.

Background:

LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan accomplishments:

- As of April 2025, our government has completed 21 items, with another 34 in process, 32 in continual process and 28 not yet started.

Release of the What We Heard Report on Progress on the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan in April 2025.**Expansion of SART services accomplishments:**

WGED accomplishment notes

- Justice is now the lead Yukon government department on the Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART) community expansion. WGED and HSS play a supporting role in coordination, policy development, and communications.
- The Yukon Advisory Committee on MMIWG2S+ – with secretariat support of WGED – identified milestones in Yukon’s MMIWG2S+ implementation plan tied to SART – including the expansion of SART services to Yukon communities within 5 years.

NAPGBV accomplishments:

- WGED has funded twenty NGO-led projects over the first two years of the agreement, for a total amount of \$2.2M.
- WGED introduced the Yukon First Nation (YFN) Violence Prevention Fund to support Indigenous-led, gender-based violence prevention projects aligned with Yukon’s MMIWG2S+ strategy. Three applications were successful, each focusing on a range of land-based healing camps and workshops for men and boys, totaling \$300,000.

MMIWG2S+ implementation accomplishments:

- WGED compiled information to create the first annual report, which was released at the third annual accountability forum in October 2024.

MACWAGE accomplishments

- The *Minister’s Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity* (MACWAGE) Regulation was brought into force this fall, reflecting the updated legislation. Six new members and a chair have been appointed.

GIDA:

- WGED continues to promote the online training modules for Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis.
- The directorate often supports connection or collaboration between departments and/or equity-seeking organizations.

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TAB 01
Spring 2025

WGED accomplishment notes

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

Work with stakeholders on gender-based violence prevention programming for young men and boys:

- WGED supported 4 projects totaling \$363,000 in 2024-25 focused on land-based healing and gender-based violence prevention initiatives focused on young men and boys. This includes 3 projects delivered by Yukon First Nation governments as well as 1 project delivered by Skookum Jim Friendship Centre.

Approved by:

Type or print name

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

April 30, 2025

Date approved

Funding to equity-seeking organizations and Yukon First Nations governments

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

Recommended response:

- We're incredibly grateful for the work that equity-seeking organizations and Yukon First Nations governments do to advance gender equity, reduce gender-based violence, and build safer communities.
- In 2025-26, the Women and Gender Equity Directorate will provide \$3.3 million in operational and project funding.
- This funding supports the provision of services such as drop-in meals, peer support, violence prevention projects, systems navigation, support for victims of sexualized assault, safe community spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners, and participation in the implementation of Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy.
- In 2024, WGED introduced the Yukon First Nation (YFN) Violence Prevention Fund under the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. This fund was created to support Indigenous-led, gender-based violence prevention projects aligned with Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy.
- In 2024-25, the fund supported three projects focused on providing land-based healing camps and workshops for men and boys, totaling \$300,000

Additional response:

- Highlights of the \$3.3 million in funding from the Directorate include:
 - \$1.3 million through the Yukon's agreement with Canada under the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence; and
 - \$716,000 to support partners in the implementation of Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit+ People Strategy;

Funding to equity-seeking organizations and Yukon First Nations governments

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

- \$375,000 to Queer Yukon Society in operational funding for this fiscal; and
- \$100,000 from the Crisis Hotline Funding Agreement (which is also fully recoverable).
- The remaining balance of the \$3.3 million will go towards operational and/or project funding for a number of equity-seeking organizations.
- We have heard organizations' requests for sustainable long-term funding and are analyzing the findings from the program review and recommended framework for allocation of operational funding.
- We are simultaneously working with organizations to streamline processes and reduce administrative burdens.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Indigenous women's organizations and women's organizations have made several public requests for increased and long-term funding in recent years.
- NGOs also have questions regarding how government is using the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence funding.

Background:

- The NAPGBV was announced in November 2022. It is a ten-year action plan.
- Yukon signed a bilateral funding agreement with Canada under the plan in 2023.
- Under this agreement, Canada will invest close to \$16.4 million over four years (until 2027) to implement the plan in the Yukon. Yukon is cost-matching this amount.
- WGED is leading the Yukon government's involvement in the national action plan, along with the departments of Justice and Health and Social Services.

Funding to equity-seeking organizations and Yukon First Nations governments

Women and Gender Equity Directorate

- In fiscal year 2023-24, the Directorate entered into two-year agreements with existing partners to support projects within two NAPGBV pillars.
- The Directorate also entered into an agreement with the Yukon Women's Coalition under pillar 1.1: Capacity building within the gender-based violence sector.
- In 2024-25, the Directorate established the Yukon First Nation Violence Prevention Fund and entered into agreements with three Yukon First Nation governments. This new fund aligns with pillar 2.1: Enhanced funding for existing partners – prevention.
- Crisis hotline funding is provided through a four-year agreement with Women and Gender Equality Canada. This agreement will expire in March 2026, and is providing a total of \$100,000 for 2025-26 to 4 organizations with existing crisis hotlines responding to GBV.
- The Sexualized Assault Support Line transfer payment agreement has been transferred to Victim Services in the Department of Justice in an effort to combine agreements and lower the administrative burden for organizations leading the work.

Appendix

2025-26 WGED funding to Yukon equity-seeking organizations

| Organization | Funding program | Agreement Details | 2025-26 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Liard Aboriginal Women's Society | Indigenous Women's Equality Fund | One-year 2025-26 \$200,000 | \$200,000 |
| Total | | | \$200,000 |
| Les Essentielles | Women's Equality Fund | Three-year 2025-28 \$134,500 | \$46,500 |
| Total | | | \$46,500 |

Session Briefing Note

TAB 02
Spring 2025

Funding to equity-seeking organizations and Yukon First Nations governments

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Canadian Mental Health Association | Crisis Hotline | One-year 2025-26 \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| Dawson Women's Shelter | Crisis Hotline | One-year 2025-26 \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| Help and Hope for Families | Crisis Hotline | One-year 2025-26 \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| Yukon Women's Transition Home Society | Crisis Hotline | One-year 2025-26 \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| Total | | | \$100,000 |
| Queer Yukon Society | Operational | One-year 2025-26 \$375,000 | \$375,000 |
| Skookum Jim Friendship Centre | Women's Legal Advocate | Three-year 2024-27 \$279,000 | \$93,000 |
| Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre | Women's Advocate | Three-year 2024-27 \$300,000 | \$100,000 |
| | A Safe Place | Three-year 2024-27 \$95,000 | \$95,000 |
| | WEF | Three-year 2025-28 \$172,500 | \$57,500 |
| Total | | | \$252,500 |
| Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle | Indigenous Women's Equality Fund | One-year 2025-26 \$200,000 | \$200,000 |
| Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council | Indigenous Women's Equality Fund | One-year 2025-26 \$200,000 | \$200,000 |

Session Briefing Note

TAB 02
Spring 2025

Funding to equity-seeking organizations and Yukon First Nations governments

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

| | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| | Family Coordination for Accountability gatherings | One-year 2025-26 \$116,000 | \$116,000 |
| | Sally and Sisters | One-year 2025-26 \$168,000 | \$168,000 |
| Total | | | \$484,000 |
| Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition | Whitehorse Affordable Family Housing | Three-year 2024-27 \$229,500 | \$76,500 |
| Yukon Status of Women's Council | WEF | Three-year 2025-28 \$154,500 | \$51,500 |
| Yukon Women in Trades and Technology | WEF | Three-year 2022-25 \$149,500 | \$51,500 |
| Yukon Women's Coalition | Strategic Planning | One-year 2023-25 \$60,000 | \$60,000 |
| TOTAL – EQUITY SEEKING ORGANIZATIONS | | | \$1,990,500 |
| | | | |

Approved by:

Type or print name

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

April 30, 2025

Date Approved

National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – Yukon's implementation

Women and Gender Equity Directorate,
Justice and Health
and Social Services

Recommended response:

- Yukon is nearing the end of the second year of Yukon's implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate and the departments of Justice and Health and Social Services continue to collaborate, along with external partners, to implement various initiatives outlined in the action plan.
- As part of the Yukon's implementation plan, our government has provided over \$4 million to 13 Non-Governmental Organizations over the first two years of implementation. This includes operational funding for three transition homes and project-based funding for other organizations.

Additional response:

- In December, Women and Gender Equality Canada published the National Action Plan's first annual progress report. The report outlines progress made in the first year of the action plan, including the development and signing of 13 bilateral agreements and the resulting actions taken by each jurisdiction until March 31, 2024.
- The Yukon Women's Coalition led engagement with non-governmental organizations in the Yukon. The results of this engagement will help to inform continuing implementation of the action plan in the Yukon and may lead to some changes in future years of the funding distributed under the national action plan.

National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – Yukon's implementation

Women and Gender Equity Directorate,
Justice and Health and Social Services

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence is a high profile, national initiative.
 - We know that the prevalence of gender-based violence and rates of victimization are significantly higher in the Yukon than in most Canadian jurisdictions, and that Indigenous women are disproportionately affected.
-

Background:

- The Government of Canada is providing \$16.4 million to Yukon over four years to support implementation efforts in the territory. The Government of Yukon is matching the Government of Canada's financial contribution with existing spending on related initiatives, such as the Sexualized Assault Response Team.
- For the final two years of the agreement (2025-26 and 2026-27), federal funding is allocated between departments as follows:
 - Department of Justice - \$1.86 million per fiscal to support: prevention, intervention, specialized care, court support, trauma healing for justice-involved Yukoners and First Nations responses to gender-based violence.
 - Department of Health and Social Services - \$650,000, per fiscal to increase operational funding to transition homes.
 - Women and Gender Equity Directorate - \$1.61 million per fiscal to enhance funding for existing community partners working to end gender-based violence in the territory through prevention and victim support.

Session Briefing Note

TAB 03
Spring 2025

National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – Yukon's implementation

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate,
Justice and Health
and Social Services

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

February 4, 2025

Deputy Minister, WGED

[Date approved]

Jeff Simons

February 3, 2025

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

[Date approved]

Matt King

February 3, 2025

Deputy Minister, HSS

[Date approved]

National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – WGED implementation

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

Recommended response:

- Women and Gender Equity Directorate allocated \$1.61 million in 2025-26 from the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. This will continue to enhance funding for existing community partners, support coordination and leadership of Yukon's implementation, and enable stakeholder engagement, research and knowledge mobilization.
- WGED has funded twenty NGO-led projects over the first two years of the agreement, for a total amount of \$2.2M. These projects were supported through two funding streams, one focused on gender-based violence prevention and the other on victim supports.
- In 2024, WGED introduced the Yukon First Nation (YFN) Violence Prevention Fund under the national action plan. This fund was created to support Indigenous-led, gender-based violence prevention projects aligned with Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy. The fund currently supports three projects focused on providing land-based healing camps and workshops for men and boys, totaling \$300,000.

Additional response:

- To create a shared vision on how we can work together to implement the national action plan beyond 2024-25, the Yukon Women's Coalition led a sector-wide engagement and research project. WGED allocated \$250,000 to the coalition in the 2024-25 fiscal year to complete this work.

National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – WGED implementation

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Women's Coalition sent letters to Minister McLean in 2024 requesting a more substantive role in the development and implementation of Yukon's implementation plan.
- In February 2023, the Yukon Women's Coalition asked for increased core funding for Yukon women's and 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations and a central role in funding prioritization and implementation decisions.

Background:

- The following 10 NGOs receive project-based funding from WGED as part of the Yukon's implementation plan for years 1 and 2 of the bilateral national action plan agreement:
 - Les Essentielles
 - Liard Aboriginal Women's Society
 - Queer Yukon Society
 - Skookum Jim Friendship Centre
 - Victoria Faulker Women's Centre
 - Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle
 - Yukon Aboriginal Women's Society
 - Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition
 - Yukon Status of Women Council
 - Yukon Women in Trades and Technology
- The Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund (PVAAW) is paused for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 fiscal year.

Approved by:

Type or print name

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

April 30, 2025

[Date approved]

National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – program review

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Women's Coalition (YWC) has completed a sector-wide engagement and program review to address gaps and opportunities in programs combating gender-based violence in the Yukon.
- Women and Gender Equity Directorate received the full report in April 2025.
- Findings indicate several core gaps and barriers to achieving a healthy gender-based violence sector. This includes:
 - reliance on project-based funding;
 - lack of collaboration;
 - rural-urban divide in services;
 - lack of focus on addressing root causes;
 - limited shelters;
 - insufficient counselling; and
 - lack of services tailored for rural, 2SLGBTQIA+, male and youth populations.
- Findings from this review will inform the updated implementation plan and priority actions for years three and four of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

Additional response:

- The findings reiterated the need for enhanced operational funding.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate is analyzing the findings and recommended framework for allocation of operational funding.

National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence – program review

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

Context—this may be an issue because:

- A stakeholder engagement and program review are included in the Yukon's implementation plan for the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, which is publicly available on the Government of Canada website.
 - Opposition members brought up concerns about the purpose and objectives of the program review in the 2024-25 supplementary budget debate.
-

Background:

- In March 2024, the Yukon Women's Coalition requested a leadership role in the program review and by May 2024, it was agreed they would coordinate this work.
- A formal agreement in October 2024 allocated the coalition \$250,000 in funding to complete the engagement and review. This included funding for a consultant to conduct interviews and analysis and also funded the participation of all organizations.
- The program review is intended to inform the development of criteria for operational funding, identify areas of shared investment, and inform an updated implementation plan for the national action plan.

Approved by:

Type or print name

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

April 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit+ People Strategy

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

Recommended response:

- Our government is committed to working in a spirit of decolonization and in partnership with Indigenous women's organizations and Yukon First Nation governments to end the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit+ people.
- I'm pleased with the progress happening on this critical work, including the 3rd Annual Accountability Forum and release of the first annual report on implementation in October 2024.
- This year, in addition to funding two FTEs, the Directorate is allocating the following to this work:
 - \$600,000 for the Indigenous Women's Equality Fund, supporting the operations of Indigenous women's organizations; and
 - \$280,000 for accountability and implementation gatherings.
- While our government continues to play a key role, all strategy partners must prioritize this work and provide budget and resources.

Additional response:

- The first annual report gives us an invaluable snapshot of the work all strategy partners have underway. As of October 2024:
 - 52% of all milestones are in process;
 - 11% are ongoing;
 - 4% complete; and
 - 33% not yet started.
- The Yukon Advisory Committee is evolving into a new governance structure to best support implementation and accountability.

Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit+ People Strategy

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

- Indigenous women's organizations are planning community visits with Yukon's MMIWG2S+ families this spring to ensure families and survivors remain at the heart of this work.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Families and survivors have advocated for change for many years and want to see Yukon's strategy and implementation plan realized as soon as possible. They also want to stay at the heart of the work.
- While there is some alignment between Yukon's implementation plan under the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy, there is no dedicated Yukon government fund to support the MMIWG2S+ strategy.

Background:

- The Yukon Advisory Committee was created in 2015. It included representatives of the Yukon government (YG), Yukon First Nations governments, three Indigenous women's organizations, 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners and an Elder.
- The committee worked with Yukon First Nations, Yukon Indigenous women's groups and family representatives to release Yukon's strategy in December 2020.
- Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy outlines 32 actions under four pathways to guide action in response to the National Inquiry's final report.
 - Strengthening connections and supports.
 - Community safety and justice.
 - Economic independence and education.
 - Community action and accountability.

Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit+ People Strategy

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

- Input from Yukon First Nations on the first draft of the implementation framework was sought through the Yukon Forum, Council of Yukon First Nations Health Commission, Justice Commission, and First Nations Education Commission.
- The Yukon Advisory Committee released the implementation plan in June 2023.
- Annual accountability forums have been held every year since 2022. These forums bring families and survivors together with partners and contributors.
- The Directorate has two full-time positions to support strategy implementation.

Approved by:

Type or print name

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

April 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Recommended response:

- We are committed to creating a society that is inclusive and free of discrimination, where 2SLGBTQIA+ people can live, work, and play in safe and supportive communities as their authentic selves.
- The What We Heard report on progress on the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan was released this month (April 2025). It is based on feedback from 2SLGBTQIA+ community members and self-identified allies.
- Findings included:
 - The majority of 2SLGBTQIA+ survey participants felt four key government initiatives have been beneficial: the banning of conversion therapy; the expansion and coverage of gender-affirming care; the opening of the Yukon Pride Centre; and the creation of gender-inclusive washrooms.
 - 72 per cent of 2SLGBTQIA+ participants felt they could recommend the Yukon as a safe and inclusive travel destination for 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
 - 53 per cent of 2SLGBTQIA+ participants who identified as students, parents or guardians, educators or administrators agreed that Yukon schools adequately support 2SLGBTQIA+ students, while 22 per cent did not.
 - 67 per cent of 2SLGBTQIA+ participants felt that the Yukon is a safe place for 2SLGBTQIA+ people to live.

Highlights of actions completed include:

- Passing the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Protection Act, which bans conversation therapy in the Yukon;

- Introducing new building standards for gender inclusive washrooms;
- Expanding health care insurance coverage for gender-affirming therapies, procedures and surgeries;
- Providing coverage for comprehensive gender-affirming care and offering World Professional Association for Transgender Health mental health training to all Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services clinicians; and
- Creating a new internal peer group for Government of Yukon employees who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ or allies.

Additional response:

- The What We Heard report will help to inform work going forward.
- Areas identified as requiring further work are further integration of SOGI in schools and advocating and supporting overall safety and inclusion throughout the community. These are areas of increasing concern in the current political climate and we acknowledge that 2SLGBTQIA+ community members, especially transgender and non-binary individuals, are increasingly concerned about safety.
- As of April 2025, our government has completed 21 items under the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan, with another 34 in process, 32 in continual process and 28 not yet started.
- We recognize that finalizing the What We Heard report has taken time. The work took longer than expected because the department needed to carefully review data in an inclusive and intersectional way.
- The Directorate has worked closely with Queer Yukon to help guide the development and implementation of the action plan and will

continue to work with Queer Yukon and the Yukon's 2SLGBTQIA+ community going forward.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The survey was completed in late 2023 and the community has been eager to see the results.
 - In recent years, across North America, there has been an increase in transphobic and homophobic rhetoric and discriminatory policies.
-

Background:

- The LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan was released in July 2021, following a comprehensive public engagement in 2018-19 led by QMUNITY and supported by Yukon 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations.
 - This 5-year plan includes more than 100 actions for nine areas of government to complete. The Women and Gender Equity Directorate coordinates and oversees the action plan and ensures commitments are on track.
 - Each department involved in the action plan created their own actions and committed to completing them within the five-year timeline.
 - The plan committed to checking in with the community every two years on progress. The first survey took place September 14, 2023 to October 27, 2023.
 - In 2023, WGED hired a 2SLGBTQIA+ Inclusion Coordinator who is the point of contact for each department involved in the plan. The coordinator regularly communicates with policy representatives from each department to:
 - seek updates on departmental progress on implementation; and
 - provide updates on progress, planned engagement, survey results etc.
 - The Yukon Government is now using 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual and others). LGBTQ2S+ is still being used when referencing the action plan.
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Session Briefing Note

TAB 07
Spring 2025

2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

- Data about the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Yukon and Canada is limited, However, Statistics Canada reports that 4.4% of Canadians report being part of this community. If extrapolated to Yukon, that translates to about 1800 people.

Approved by:

Type or print name

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

April 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Queer Yukon Society funding

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

Recommended response:

- We value the incredible services and programming Queer Yukon Society provides 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners, as well as its support and guidance on the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate is providing \$375,000 in operational funding to the society for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This represents no change in funding from the last two years.

Additional response:

- We are pleased that there is now a new board in place with the society seeking a new executive director. We are also pleased that non-drop-in programming has resumed at all three Queer Yukon locations and that the society is working on a plan to better support staff safety.
- Like all organizations, Queer Yukon Society is experiencing some growing pains and is in the process of reflecting on concerns about a lack of Indigenous inclusion and programming and has committed to making changes that will be serve all 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.
- The Yukon government will support the Board to help ensure they are operating in an inclusive and transparent manner. This will happen through our existing collaborative working relationship and through the transfer payment process.
- We will also continue to work with the Indigenous, Two-Spirit, and Indigiqueer communities to help ensure their voices are centered and that the Yukon has programming specific to Indigenous Peoples and and decolonizing contexts.

Queer Yukon Society funding

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The public could have questions about the status of Queer Yukon after the society experienced disruptions to its programming and board resignations in the fall of 2024.
 - There may be specific questions about YG's funding for QYS considering complaints about a lack of programming and inclusion of Indigenous perspectives, Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer identities.
-

Background:

- In 2020-21, following consultation with existing 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations, Yukon government allocated Queer Yukon \$211,600 to support the development of a Pride Centre. A three-year agreement followed in 2021-24 totaling \$1.345M to support operational capacity and renovations.
- The Cache, Yukon's first dedicated drop-in 2SLGBTQIA+ community space, opened in 2021.
- Health & Social Services holds a Transfer Payment Agreement with Queer Yukon Society to support the provision of health navigation services for 2023-26, totaling \$471K.
- Queer Yukon paused its programming on October 1, 2024 citing staff raising safety concerns related to drop-in programming. Four board members publicly announced their resignation on November 8, 2024.
- New board members were elected during a special general meeting November 14, 2024. Three of them have since resigned and three are remaining.
- A new executive director started in early November but subsequently resigned. The current board search for an acting executive director continues.
- Queer Yukon Society is currently the only service-providing 2SLGBTQIA+ organization in the territory. It provides more than 25 programs across Dawson City, Watson Lake and Whitehorse, including but was not limited to peer support groups, health services, direct aid, the Yukon Gender Gear Program, and training and education.

Queer Yukon Society funding

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

- In early 2025, complaints from Indigenous and 2S+ representatives and individuals signaled dissatisfaction with QYS's inclusion of Indigenous Peoples. Members of the 2S+ community shared their complaints with the minister and raised questions about funding for QYS.
- Both QYS and the Women and Gender Equity Directorate are exploring other, and better, ways to support 2S+ and Indigiqueer communities

Approved by:

Type or print name

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, WGED

April 30, 2025

Date approved

Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity

Women and Gender Equity Directorate

Recommended response:

- The new *Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity Act* will allow the council to give advice to all government ministers on policies, programs and legislation related to gender equity, sexual orientation and women's issues.
- Work to update consequential regulations and to recruit new members has now been completed.
- A chair and six members have now been appointed and they held their first meeting – including an orientation – in March of this year.

Additional response:

- The changes to the council were developed after years of work with council members to review the function and focus of the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues in the current Yukon context. We gathered input from women's and 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations, and current and past members.
- The council has the authority to determine how the sub-committees will operate, including which issues are referred there.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The new Act and its accompanying regulation were passed in Spring 2023.
-

Background:

- The council was originally established by the *Yukon Council on Women's Issues Act* in May 1992.
- During the Spring 2023 sitting, amendments to the YACWI Act were passed. It was renamed the *Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity Act*.

Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity

Women and Gender Equity Directorate

- The mandate of the council was also expanded from a focus on women to include advising on issues relating to gender equity and equity for individuals who may face discrimination because of their sexual orientation.
- The updated council structure created two sub-committees:
 - o a sub-committee on gender equity with a focus on equity for women;
 - o a sub-committee on gender equity with a focus on gender diversity and equity for individuals who may face discrimination because of their sexual orientation.
- In August 2023, Cabinet approved the Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity (MACWAGE) regulations.
- In November 2023, recruitment of new members began with a public news release and targeted letters to partners.
- In April 2024, after receiving several applications, the department submitted recommendations for new members for the Minister's consideration.
- The council is mandated to meet four times each year in Whitehorse and in Yukon communities.

Approved by:

Type or print name

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, WGED

April 30, 2025
Date Approved

Gender Inclusivity Diversity Analysis (GIDA)

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

Recommended response:

- Our government is committed to inclusiveness, equity and respect for diversity of all Yukoners. One way we meet this commitment is by using Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis or GIDA in our work.
- The Women and Gender Equity Directorate is leading the implementation of the GIDA Action Plan, with support from the Public Service Commission.
- The Directorate works to implement GIDA at interdepartmental committees or when departments request GIDA advice.

Additional response:

- The Directorate's work on GIDA is guided by the action plan.
- The Directorate has begun work to review the Yukon government's GIDA training for staff.
- All departments are responsible for demonstrating how they've used a GIDA lens on items that come to Cabinet for a decision.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Some stakeholders have asked how the Yukon government is applying GIDA on key initiatives, major Yukon government strategies, or Government of Yukon workplace processes.
- The current GIDA action plan expires in March 2025.

Background:

- GIDA is a process that helps government departments work to achieve equity in its programs and services.

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Gender Inclusivity Diversity Analysis (GIDA)

Women and Gender
Equity Directorate

- Minister McLean’s 2021 mandate letter – and subsequent mandate letter in 2023 – instruct the Directorate to “lead the implementation of Gender Inclusive Diversity Analysis on key initiatives across government by providing training, research support and analysis.”
- The 2022-25 GIDA Action Plan includes 16 actions to guide this work under 3 main pillars: building capacity, strengthening accountability, and fostering leadership.
- In January 2023, ECO launched a new decision-making template that includes an updated section on differential impacts, or GIDA.

Approved by:

Type or print name

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Department

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

**JUS 74
WGED 11
HSS 61**

Spring 2025

Expansion of SART Services

Justice, WGED, HSS

Recommended response:

- The Sexualized Assault Response Team, or SART, is a network of agencies that provide safe, comprehensive supports for victims of sexualized violence.
- We are committed to expanding sexualized assault response services to Yukon communities. The expansion of services is guided by the findings and recommendations of the What We Heard report and is informed by leading practices and approaches from experts in the field.
- The departments of Justice, Health and Social Services, and the Women and Gender Equity Directorate are working closely with SART agencies to develop an action plan to enhance supports for victims of sexualized assault in rural communities.

Additional response:

- We are making progress in several areas including:
 - strengthening relationships with rural service providers;
 - providing travel assistance for rural victims of gender-based violence;
 - improving navigation and pathways to access forensic care from rural communities;
 - expanding access to training for community service providers; and
 - updating communication material to better reach victims in rural communities, enhance awareness and understanding of sexualized violence and existing services such as the 24/7 toll-free support line, and priority access to counselling through the Mental Wellness and Substance Use community hubs.

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**JUS 74
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Spring 2025

Expansion of SART Services

Justice, WGED, HSS

Context:

- The Minister's 2021 and 2023 mandate letters include a commitment to expand the services of the Yukon's SART to Yukon communities beyond Whitehorse.
 - The SART expansion shares many priorities with the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit Plus People Strategy, and the National Action Plan to end Gender-Based Violence.
 - The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement includes a commitment to develop a low-cost transportation option for people travelling throughout the Yukon.
-

Background:

- Engagement with First Nations governments, rural service providers and victims occurred in the summer and fall 2023. The What We Heard report was shared with key partners, stakeholders, and the public in spring 2024. The engagement included participants from each community with 244 people reached through interviews, sharing circles and online engagement.
 - Work is already underway in many areas to improve services to victims of sexualized violence, including:
 - updating the website and refreshing communication material to create awareness of available services for communities;
 - cross-agency training for front-line workers in communities outside Whitehorse and building content for a self-paced online training catalogue;
 - improving transportation options for victims who need to access services outside their communities; and
 - improving pathways to access forensic care from communities.
 - Victim Services, community health centres, hospitals, First Nations governments, the RCMP and women's shelters or safe houses also provide services.
 - There are three main components of SART: victim support, legal/criminal justice services and medical services. Services are available for victims of all genders, ages and sexual orientations.
 - Coordination of the network of agencies is supported by two Government of Yukon positions who work in partnership with SART agencies to ensure there is continuity of care and a team-based, integrated approach for victims of sexualized violence.
-

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Spring 2025

Expansion of SART Services

Justice, WGED, HSS

- Available services include a 24/7 support line, accompaniment to the hospital and RCMP, 24/7 on-call physicians at Whitehorse General Hospital (WGH) and priority access to counselling through Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services Hubs.
- The RCMP Sexual Assault Investigations Review Committee is led by the Yukon RCMP in line with national direction. Government of Yukon representatives take part in case reviews of sexualized assault investigations through this committee.
- SART in Whitehorse was initially launched March 6, 2020, and is based on the core principles of victim's choice; dignity and respect; preventing system re-traumatization; cultural safety; and access, equity and inclusion.
- Current Whitehorse SART partner agencies include:
 - Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Justice and Women and Gender Equity Directorate;
 - Public Prosecution Service of Canada;
 - RCMP "M" Division;
 - Kwanlin Dün First Nation;
 - Yukon Hospital Corporation; and
 - Yukon Women's Transition Home.
- Whitehorse SART agencies' responses to victims are guided by the Whitehorse SART protocol. The protocol is the first of its kind in Yukon and endeavors to make the network of services sustainable in Whitehorse.
- SART is currently providing comprehensive forensic care in Whitehorse.
- In the Yukon, there are three options for care at health care facilities:
 - medical care (available in all communities);
 - forensic care with a sexual assault evidence kit (SAEK) sent to RCMP (available at Whitehorse General Hospital); and
 - forensic care "on ice" where the SAEK is stored at the hospital to provide time for the victim to decide about reporting to the RCMP (available at WGH).
- Forensic care involves a forensic examination, which may include the completion of a SAEK, toxicology kit, and writing a forensic report for evidentiary purposes and evidence collection which may be used in court.

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Expansion of SART Services

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- Specialized SART services, such as pediatric care, are also available at WGH. All community health centres offer standardized, clinic-based care to support victims.
- Transportation support is available to assist victims who choose forensic care as part of their journey through the criminal justice system.
- Although forensic care is not available in community health centres, we remain committed to providing comprehensive care and support to victims.
- Training is provided for SART agencies and any Yukon service providers who support victims of sexualized violence. A public catalogue of online, self-paced SART training is available via YGLearn.
- Annual priorities are set by SART agencies based on the SART training framework and include topics such as:
 - cultural safety and awareness;
 - understanding trauma-informed care
 - responding to specific populations, such as 2SLGBTQIA+, child and youth victims; and
 - responding to technology facilitated sexualized violence.
- Expansion of SART services aligns with action item 2.5 in Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy: Improve victim-centred and crisis-responsive supports for victims of gender-based violence and sexualized assault.

Approved by:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Mark Radke</u> | <u>February 6, 2025</u> |
| Deputy Minister, Justice | Date approved |
| <u>Sierra van der Meer</u> | <u>February 6, 2025</u> |
| Deputy Minister, WGED | Date approved |
| <u>Matt King</u> | <u>February 6, 2025</u> |
| Deputy Minister, HSS | Date approved |

Gender Identity and Health Curriculum: refer to SP12

Curriculum Resource Material Review – Catholic Curriculum: refer to CU02

School Council Code of Conduct: refer to EP06

Value:

- The Department of Education values diversity in its school communities and wants to provide safe, welcoming, inclusive, and affirming learning environments for all students.

Recommended response:

- All students, staff, and parents have a right to feel safe and be safe in Yukon public schools.
- People of all sexual orientations, gender identities, ancestries, ethnicities, places of origin, citizenships, religions, ages, and abilities must be treated with respect and dignity.
- School authorities work with the entire school community to develop and implement proactive strategies that support the inclusion, respect, and dignity of 2SLGBTQIA+ students and their families.
- Parents, guardians, and caregivers are encouraged to contact their child's school for information about SOGI-inclusive education. This includes details on safe spaces, contacts, activities, and organizations that promote equality and non-discrimination in Yukon schools.

Holy Family Principal's letter:

- The Department of Education is working with the Holy Family School Council to ensure a smooth transition while recruiting for a short-term principal position.
- The department cannot provide comments on personnel matters. We take concerns raised by school staff seriously. All students, staff, and families have a right to be safe and feel safe in their school community. That

includes respecting and upholding policies like our Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy.

- We recognize that there are differences in perspectives within the Catholic community, and we will continue to work towards bridging gaps and working with the School Council and the Catholic Episcopal Corporation to foster a positive and collaborative relationship.

Action plan:

- The Department of Education updated its Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) policy in August 2023 as part of the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan.
- The department remains committed to additional work, including clarifying gender identity inclusion in sports.
- The department is reviewing how to best support schools in implementing the policy as part of the ongoing SOGI policy review.

Yukon Child and Youth Advocate review

- In June 2024, the Government of Yukon referred the SOGI Policy to the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office for a comprehensive review.
- This ongoing review asks the Advocate's Office to assess the policy's current impact and provide recommendations to ensure inclusive and safe school communities for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

ARC Foundation:

- In fall 2023, the department contracted the ARC Foundation, a charitable organization, to help educators implement the SOGI Policy and foster more inclusive schools using the tools and resources of the SOGI 1 2 3 program.

- The SOGI Policy requires schools to develop school-based procedures and guidelines. Schools, school boards, and councils are supported by the department and guided by best practices from the ARC Foundation.
- As Minister of Education and Minister responsible for the Women and Gender Equity Directorate, I remain fully committed to implementing the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan and have encouraged both departments to collaborate on this priority.

Gender and sexuality alliances (GSAs):

- The SOGI Policy requires administrators to make best efforts to facilitate the formation of clubs, such as Gender and Sexuality Alliances (GSAs), when students or staff request this support.

Catholic school parent concerns about textbook:

- While Catholic schools have the right to teach religious education programs aligned with Catholic values, they must not provide teachings on sexual orientation or gender identity that conflict with Yukon laws or Department of Education policies.
- Catholic schools in the Yukon are public schools, and Catholic educators are public servants. All schools and teachers must adhere to Yukon laws and Department of Education policies.
- Homophobic or transphobic teachings have no place in the public school system.
- The Department of Education remains committed to working with the Catholic Episcopal Corporation to jointly review instructional resources and materials that uphold Catholic values while aligning with Yukon law and department policies.

SOGI Inclusion

Education Act Amendments response:

- In spring 2022, the Government of Yukon supported amendments to the Education Act to promote equity and non-discrimination, ensuring all Yukon schools have safe spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ students in the form of activities or organizations.
 - The department continues to encourage and support schools in meeting their legal obligations to support 2SLGBTQIA+ students.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There is considerable interest in how Yukon schools are offering safe and inclusive environments to 2SLGBTQIA+ students, including the SOGI policy's statement that schools will recognize people's correct pronouns, as declared by the individuals themselves. This requirement applies to students who have not made official changes to their name or gender in school records.
 - The principal of Holy Family Elementary school stepped down from the position, alleging that the local bishop frequently oversteps his authority while the department does little to support her or address the Bishop's behaviour. This has resulted in media coverage, and protests (in support of the former principal) by the school community.
-

Background:

Number of schools with GSAs

- On February 19, 2024, Minister McLean was asked in the Legislative Assembly by the Leader of the Third Party how many schools in the Yukon have Gender and Sexuality Alliances (GSAs).
- Our survey shows that:
 - All four high schools in Whitehorse have GSAs.
 - Aurora Virtual School has a virtual GSA.
 - Robert Service School (Dawson City) has a GSA.
 - Other Yukon Education, FNSB and CSFY schools have a range of student-led, educator-supported activities that promote equality and non-discrimination. Examples include student councils, diversity clubs, and monthly litanies that promote belonging and inclusion.

- The Yukon First Nation School Board reported proactive and culturally appropriate school-based processes to welcome and include 2SLGBTQIA+ learners and their families at the school. All schools have safe spaces and designated safe humans. The First Nation School Board expressed commitment to ensuring meaningful engagement with local Elders and Knowledge Holders in all of their communities to guide their work in a good way.
- A notable exception is the Wood Street Centre, which has no student clubs because students are kept busy with intensive programming.
- One school with a small student population reported that a student survey revealed that students were not interested in a GSA at the time.

LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan and SOGI Policy

- The updated SOGI policy notes:
 - “The SOGI policy has always applied to all school-sponsored activities, and trans students continue to be protected and entitled to support.”
 - “The next rounds of evaluation will include deeper discussions around how to better proactively foster inclusion, with consideration for the inclusion of trans students in sports.”
- Some people believe that schools should tell a parent/guardian if their child wants to be called by a name or pronouns other than their official name/pronouns. The policy states that the “Department of Education values diversity in its school communities and wants to provide safe, welcoming, inclusive and affirming learning environments for all students.”
- While the department understands the importance of involving parents in the lives of their children, the issue is a delicate one that must consider the human rights of students, particularly those who are transgender or nonbinary. The department believes that schools should involve parents when there is a specific problem or issue that could impact the child's safety, wellbeing, or education.
- Training and resources are offered to all staff. Further training is required for staff members and counsellors identified as safe contacts to prepare them to respond knowledgeably to 2SLGBTQIA+ students and students with 2SLGBTQIA+ family members.
- Yukon schools have a number of universal, stand-alone washrooms available, and the department is working to ensure that all school facilities have stand-alone or gender-

SOGI Inclusion

neutral washrooms. Building standards have now been updated to ensure new schools will have gender inclusive washrooms.

- In the 2021 LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan, the Department of Education made a number of commitments, including to update the SOGI policy.
- The August 2023 updates to the SOGI policy address issues such as use of a student's correct gender pronouns, update terminology to be trans-inclusive, address gender-identity inclusion in sports, and clarify points of contact and responsibilities at the department and school levels.
- On March 23, 2022, the opposition asked the Minister to commit to engaging with the school community to update the SOGI policy before the end of the current school year (June 2022).
- The funding agreement for Catholic schools in the Yukon accommodates religious instruction while emphasizing that they are publicly supported schools with the same responsibilities as other schools, including those identified in the SOGI policy.

Education Act

- Amendments to the *Education Act* make it a legal requirement for Principals to ensure that initiatives and activities in schools are inclusive of gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation.
- School administrators have been provided with information about their legislative responsibilities as well as reference materials and resources.
- Counsellors and administrators have been provided with local and national SOGI and Gender and Sexuality Alliance information.
- At the beginning of the 2023-24 school year the Department of Education provided professional development training to administrators and teachers on the requirements of the *Education Act* and the SOGI and Safe and Caring Schools policies.
- Several Yukon schools have Gender and Sexuality Alliances and other 2SLGBTQIA+ initiatives.

Catholic school parent concerns about textbook

- Following a comprehensive review by Department of Education personnel and St. Francis staff members, a new textbook was selected for use in the grade 12 Morals and Ethics course at St. Francis for the 2024-25 school year.

- This review was part of Yukon Education's commitment that all educational materials align with both St. Francis' curriculum and the Department of Education's policies.
- The Catholic Episcopal Corporation and the Department of Education are both pleased with this outcome and will continue to review resources and support educators in delivering Catholic education in line with the department's policies.

Catholic school concern about school council meeting comments

- Holy Family School Council held a meeting in June 2024 where a School Council member is noted to have made comments that run counter to the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification (SOGI) policy ("marriage is between a man and woman" and that "homosexuality and pride are deadly sins").
- After this comment was made by a School Council member, a teacher at Holy Family left the meeting. The teacher feels that the comment violated the Department of Education's SOGI policy.
- The teacher complained to the Department of Education, asking for the removal of the School Council member. The teacher was informed that the department does not have the authority to remove an elected council member.
- The teacher indicated that the Education Act allows for an application to the court to determine a removal. The teacher also said the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification policy does not adequately address what should happen when it is violated and does not feel supported by the Department of Education and is upset that there have been no consequences (removal of School Council member) and has since indicated that they have filed a human rights complaint.
- The Department of Education will support Holy Family's administration and School Council to extend a code of conduct into the operations.
- The Department will follow up with the Holy Family School Council chair to deal with this matter and to ensure the policy is being respected.

Approved by:

Mary Cameron

2025-03-06

Deputy Minister, Department of Education

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Community Safety Planning

Spring 2025

Justice

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon continues to prioritize safer and stronger communities across the territory through funding to support First Nations in their community safety planning projects.
- We remain committed to ongoing collaboration with the Government of Canada, First Nation governments and municipalities to support community safety and wellbeing planning processes, as well as the implementation of associated initiatives.
- Communities across the territory are all unique, and these planning processes must be reflective of the individual needs of each community, their perspectives and the shared priorities of community members.

Additional response – funding program:

- Phase One of the Community Safety Planning program provides up to \$200,000 to each Yukon First Nation to support community safety planning and the implementation of priorities identified by the plans.
- The Community Safety Planning program launched in February 2023, and we continue to encourage interested parties to contact the Department of Justice with any questions; or for support with applications to access this funding.
- A future expansion of the program will explore supporting community safety and well-being planning options for municipalities and rural Yukon.

Additional response – Whitehorse:

- To help address community safety challenges in Whitehorse, the Department of Justice, in partnership with the City of Whitehorse, has launched the Community Safety and Wellbeing Planning initiative for Whitehorse.

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- As part of this initiative and the Downtown Safety Response Action Plan, the Department of Justice and the City of Whitehorse will co-lead a Whitehorse Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.
- Through this plan, we will be working with partner agencies, Yukon First Nations, the RCMP and the community to address Whitehorse community safety objectives and implementation. This process will lead to a strategic community safety plan aimed at addressing community safety challenges in Whitehorse.
- The 18-month project will follow a detailed planning process led by the project team from the Department of Justice, the City of Whitehorse, the Canadian Centre for Safer Communities and the Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative.

Context:

- Yukon First Nations governments and municipalities have expressed interest in community safety planning and implementing community safety initiatives.
- The Minister of Justice's 2021 mandate letter directed the Minister to enhance the Community Safety Planning program to ensure consistent funding to community safety planning activities across the Yukon and investigate how this approach might apply to municipalities.
- The Department of Justice has implemented Phase One of the Community Safety Planning funding program and is working with Yukon First Nations to develop and submit applications to access available funding.
- A news release on February 24, 2025, announced the partnership between the Yukon government and the City of Whitehorse to launch the community safety and wellbeing planning process.
- Municipal governments and rural communities may have questions about the timing of plans to expand funding in the second phase of the Community Safety Planning program, other than the work underway for Whitehorse.

Background:

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Community Safety Planning

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- In 2017, the Yukon Forum's Action Plan prioritized "working with identified First Nations and the Government of Canada to support the development of Community Safety Plans within the Public Safety Canada framework."
- In December 2020, the Yukon Advisory Committee released Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-spirit People Strategy (the Strategy).
- The Strategy includes actions to: "Conduct community-based safety assessments designed by communities to identify factors contributing to the ongoing perpetuation of violence and unsafe conditions in each community" and to "develop and implement Community Safety Plans that address these factors and conditions."
- The Department of Justice issued a news release on March 14, 2022, announcing that Phase One of a Community Safety Planning funding program would make funds available in 2022. The release committed to providing up to \$200,000 to each First Nation for community safety planning or related implementation work.
- In April and May 2022, the Department of Justice reached out to Yukon First Nations for input on developing the Community Safety Planning program guidelines and to receive updates on their current safety planning.
- Feedback from Yukon First Nations indicated that each First Nation is in a different stage of community safety planning and implementation within their communities. Many expressed an interest in accessing funding through the Community Safety Planning funding program.
- Community safety planning processes were used at the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter to identify concerns of surrounding businesses, allied stakeholders, members of the public and shelter clients.
- Results of this process and subsequent recommendations were released in the House of Wolf and Associates' report, "A Path Forward" and Vink Consulting's report, "Whitehorse Emergency Shelter Evaluation."
- On February 19, 2025, the Government of Yukon and the City of Whitehorse signed the Community Safety Planning Mandate commitment letter, setting the groundwork and outlining the expectations for working together on a shared Whitehorse Community Safety and Wellbeing plan for Whitehorse.

Government of Canada – Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative:

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- In 2010, Public Safety Canada created the Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative to support Indigenous communities in developing tailored approaches to community safety that reflect their concerns, priorities and unique circumstances, as well as funding for implementation.
- The Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative also addresses the Government of Canada's commitment to focusing on the high numbers of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit persons, and enhance accessibility to restorative justice programming.
- The Department of Justice continues to engage with our federal partners on their Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative to explore other funding opportunities that may be complementary to our safety programs while better supporting Yukon First Nations.

Funding Agreements with First Nations

- To date, the Government of Yukon has signed agreements with Kluane First Nation, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Ross River Dena Council. The Government of Yukon has also provided partial funding to support Liard First Nation's community safety planning initiative.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons

A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2025-02-26

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Gender and Reproductive Care**Health and Social
Services

Government priority:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting Yukoners in creating reproductive care plans and expanding access to sexual and reproductive health and gender-affirming care.

Key messages:

- We are working to support Yukoners to access sexual and reproductive care and services.
- We remain committed to implementing action items from the 2021 LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan and from Putting People First.
- We work collaboratively with stakeholders and partners including the federal government, health care providers, the Yukon Medical Association, Yukon Registered Nurses Association, Yukon First Nation governments and Queer Yukon to implement these initiatives.
- The Yukon Sexual Health Clinic and the Yukon Women's Midlife Clinic are supported by three contracted Nurse Practitioners.

Birth Control:**Speaking notes:**

- Our government is committed to supporting Yukoners in accessing sexual and reproductive health care and will continue to assess access to birth control.
- Our government is committed to developing a new program that will provide Yukoners with access to sexual and reproductive health care. Developing a new program will require careful planning, research, and engagement with Yukoners and our health system partners.

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Services

- The federal government announced a commitment to funding contraception under a new federal pharmacare framework. We support this announcement and look forward to working with federal partners to understand the implications for the Yukon.

Background:

- Coverage for birth control is currently available to youth enrolled in the Children's Drug and Optical Program, which is available to lower-income families with children 18 years of age and younger.
- Birth control is covered for social assistance recipients by Income Support Services.
- The Yukon Sexual Health Clinic provides a variety of conception control products to clients of the clinic.

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education:

- The Health Promotion Unit partners with the Department of Education to deliver a Yukon-wide comprehensive sexual health education program called Better to Know. The program is implemented by two Certified Sexual Health Educators from the Health Promotion Unit and a Curriculum Consultant at the Department of Education.
- In the summer of 2024, the Department of Health and Social Services upgraded bettertoknow-yukon.ca to include comprehensive and accessible information on sexual and reproductive health services in the territory to ensure that Yukoners have the resources they need to make informed decisions about their health.
- The goal of the Better to Know program is to help prevent gender-based violence and improve Yukon's sexual health indicators through

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Services

inclusive and evidence based comprehensive sexual health education.

- Better to Know follows standards of practice set by the World Health Organization, Canadian Guidelines for Sexual Health Education, Options for Sexual Health BC, and British Columbia's (and Yukon's) Curriculum Competencies.
- Evidence consistently shows that quality, comprehensive sexual health education, delivered by sexual health education experts, can contribute to positive health outcomes, with lifelong impacts including appreciation of sexual diversity, dating and intimate partner violence prevention, STI prevention/reduction, development of healthy relationships, prevention of child sex abuse, improved social/emotional learning and increased media literacy.

LGBTQ2S+ Action Plan:

- The LGBTQ2S+ Action Plan was developed in partnership with the queer community and sets out a plan to make government programs and services more inclusive and accessible. A number of the action items under this plan are geared towards the provision and access of health care.
 - The Department of Health and Social Services has taken great strides to meet these actions.
- The plan includes a commitment to establish a health care navigator position to improve access to healthcare avenues for 2SLGBTQ+ Yukoners.
- The Government of Yukon began providing funding to Queer Yukon to create a health care navigator position in 2022. The position aims to

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Services

help 2SLGBTQ+ Yukoners access safe, equitable and timely health care services.

- The plan lays out a commitment to improve access to information and resources to support family planning efforts.
 - To help reduce the financial burdens associated with travelling for fertility treatment and surrogacy services, the *Travel for Medical Treatment Act* was amended to provide travel for services not available in one's home community.
 - Additionally, individuals and families are encouraged to visit the Sexual Health Clinic in Whitehorse or the health care navigator to talk with the team as an entry point.
- Additionally, Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services has counsellors in every high school who are prepared to support 2SLGBTQ+ youth who seek counselling.
- Training for health care professionals was raised a number of times across the action plan and in recognition of this call to action the Department has developed a number of avenues to support this.
 - The Government of Yukon provides WPATH training to Yukon government clinicians and non-governmental organizations.
 - The Government of Yukon offers and encourages all staff to attend a workshop entitled "LGBTQ2S+ Awareness and Inclusion in Services and Practices".
 - The Government of Yukon employees are also encouraged to attend additional educational sessions offered, such as Two-Spirit Awareness training.

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Services

Fertility Treatments:

Speaking notes:

- Insured Health Services' Travel for Medical Treatment program provides coverage for initial fertility consultations and diagnostic tests completed locally.
- We recognize the high cost of fertility treatment is out of reach for many Yukoners, to address this we have made travel for fertility and surrogacy treatments more affordable for those who fall under Insured Health's Medical Travel program.
- Amendments to the *Travel for Medical Treatment Regulations* provide a defined list of fertility and surrogacy treatments now eligible for travel as of October 17, 2024.
 - We are also taking steps to recognize the experiences of those using assisted reproduction and surrogacy through the proposed *Inclusive Yukon Families Act*.
- This amendment serves as a significant step forward in making fertility and surrogacy treatment more accessible to Yukoners who need these services to start or grow their families, including members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
- To further improve access to fertility and surrogacy treatments for Yukoners, the Government of Yukon is developing a new refundable tax credit which will be administered by the Canadian Revenue Agency.
- The Department of Finance is introducing amendments to the *Income Tax Act* during this spring 2025 legislative sitting subject to legislative approval.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Gender and Reproductive Care**Health and Social
Services

- The proposed tax credit is projected to have a maximum refund value of \$10,000 per year for up to \$25,000 in expenses.
- We will continue to explore options to address fertility-related and surrogacy services medical travel equity for all Yukoners including those who receive coverage under Non-Insured Health Benefits, RCMP, Canadian Forces or as federal employees.
- Thank you to all those on the ground taking steps to support access to fertility and surrogacy treatments.

Background:

- The Travel for Medical Treatment Act and Regulations provides medical travel coverage for eligible individuals, for insured services and diagnostic testing for those having to travel when services are not available in one's home community, or in Whitehorse.
- The Confidence and Supply Agreement lists "include fertility treatment in medical travel" and "create a refundable tax rebate covering up to \$8,000 per year for fertility treatment and surrogacy expenses for eligible Yukoners for up to a maximum of five years".

Gender Affirming Care:**Speaking notes:**

- We have completed necessary regulatory amendments to allow Yukoners to receive health care insurance coverage for gender-affirming care services that are not insured by other provinces or territories.
 - These changes do not impact other services that are not insured under the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Gender and Reproductive Care

Health and Social
Services

- Yukoners can access a host of gender affirming services including top and bottom surgery, tracheal shave, body contouring, vocal coaching and hair removal.
- Insured Health Services provides coverage for individuals seeking facial feminization and will continue to do so.
- Gender affirming policies B.13 and B.14 are scheduled for review in January 2025, with Insured Health Services working with Queer Yukon on a gender affirming care program review.
- All surgical assessment processes are completed in accordance with the Gender Affirming policies established by Insured Health Services, built from the *World Health Professional Association for Transgender Health Standards of Care* (version 8).
- We are working to implement recommendations in the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan to enhance health equity in the Yukon.

Background:

- Starting in 2023-24, we have provided **\$471K** (\$471,027) over three years to Queer Yukon to hire a health care navigator position to support 2SLGBTQIA+ Yukoners by removing barriers and identifying pathways to safe, inclusive, and supportive gender-affirming care.
- For Yukoners seeking hormone therapy, the Chronic Disease and Disability Benefit Program covers multiple medications for individuals of all ages who are receiving gender-affirming care.
 - This includes testosterone, estrogen and progesterone, when used as treatments for gender dysphoria.
- Puberty blockers refer to a group of medications for youth that temporarily inhibit puberty by suppressing the production of hormones and preventing development of secondary sexual characteristics.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Gender and Reproductive Care**Health and Social
Services

- Puberty blockers are intended for youth under the age of 18, with persistent and well documented gender dysphoria as determined by a qualified assessor who is a mental health professional who assesses, refers, and offer therapeutic services for children and adolescent as outlined by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.
- Taking into consideration the mental health and wellness of youth, the qualified assessor, in collaboration with the primary care provider, makes the recommendation to the Chronic Disease and Disability Benefit Program for coverage of puberty blockers.
- The Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits program covers leuprolide acetate as an exception drug for the suppression of puberty related to gender dysphoria.
- Parental consent is not explicitly required as part of the application or approval process for coverage through Insured Health Services.

Period Products:

- Through a funding partnership between our government, the Council of Yukon First Nations, and the Government of Canada, all Yukon schools have been equipped with free period products.
- Free period products are available in many Government of Yukon washrooms and we are in the process of making products available in all Government of Yukon buildings.
- The Council of Yukon First Nations has provided a supply of period products to several non-government organizations and Yukon First Nations offices and is ensuring these products remain available for distribution.
- Yukon University's campus housing has made period products available in communal bathrooms.
- As of December 15, 2023, federally regulated employers are required to make period products available in their workplaces at no cost.

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Spring 2025

Gender and Reproductive Care

Health and Social
Services

Pregnancy Termination:

Speaking notes:

- As of 2018, our government provides universal coverage of Mifegymiso for pregnancy termination.
 - Mifegymiso is a Health Canada approved combination product containing mifepristone and misoprostol that are taken in sequence to terminate pregnancy. This is called Medical Abortion.
- Services for Mifegymiso are available in Whitehorse, Dawson City and Watson Lake.
- These services are provided by a physician. In Whitehorse they can also be provided by a Nurse Practitioner.
- For those living outside those communities, abortion access is covered under our medical travel program for eligible Yukoners or through the Federal government for those eligible to assist with accessing this service.
 - Prior application and approval for travel is not required for those travelling for abortion access.
- Our government is committed to working with those with lived experience to update our policies.
- The Yukon Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (YSPOR) has recently begun work with the Opal Clinic and the Yukon Status of Women's Council to explore the feasibility of telehealth abortions in Yukon communities.

Session Briefing Note

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Gender and Reproductive Care

Health and Social
Services

- YSPOR is putting together an advisory committee and are currently seeking individuals with lived experience to help shape the project.
- The Department of Health and Social Services has upgraded the Better to Know website to include information on abortion resources in the territory to increase ease of access.
- Yukoners looking for information on abortion care can visit Bettertoknow-yukon.ca for information on where to receive care.

Background:

- Pregnancy termination options are available for up to 15 weeks plus three days of pregnancy. For pregnancies over this threshold and up to 24 weeks, services are available through the British Columbia Women's Hospital and are covered through the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan or by Non-Insured Health Benefits.

Women's Health:

- Women in the Yukon have access to a number of services across the health and social services field.
- The Women's Midlife Health Clinic can support women who are approaching, experiencing or are beyond menopause.
 - This service can be accessed without the need for referral, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 am to 4 pm.
- Mammography services can be accessed by a referral by a primary care provider or self-referral for anyone over the age of 40.
 - This service is located at the Whitehorse General Hospital and appointments can be made Monday to Friday 7 am to 3 pm. To book an appointment please call 867-393-8738.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Gender and Reproductive Care**Health and Social
Services

- A mammography exam is a low dose X-ray of the breast and is the best method for early detection of breast cancer.

WPATH training:

- We are committed to improving access to Two-Spirit, trans and non-binary-affirming health care under the LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan. A key component of meeting this commitment is to provide World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) training and other appropriate training for health care practitioners and the medical community serving the Two-Spirit, trans and non-binary Yukoners.
- The Government of Yukon provides WPATH training to Yukon government clinicians and non-governmental organizations.
- Mental Wellness and Substance Use Staff attended WPATH training and have undergone additional training for northern, remote and Indigenous contexts as part of the onboarding process.
- Staff from Family and Children's Services, Midwifery, Yukon Communicable Disease Control, the departments of Justice and Education, and other allied healthcare professionals have also attended the training.
- Yukon Communicable Disease Control program staff have attended training regarding inclusive language, facilitated by Queer Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon offers and encourages all staff to attend a workshop entitled "2S/LGBTQ+ Awareness and Inclusion in Services and Practices".
 - The workshop enables employees to gain cultural awareness of 2SLGBTQIA+ identities.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Gender and Reproductive Care

Health and Social
Services

- Attendees build awareness of inequalities that exist, gain tools to create more inclusive services and work environments and empower employees to develop a culture of continuous improvement.
- This course is mandatory for many Health and Social Services staff, including nurse practitioners, social workers, clinic managers, license practical nurses, medical office assistants, registered nurses, and other healthcare professionals.
- Government of Yukon employees are also encouraged to attend additional educational sessions offered, such as Two-Spirit Awareness training.
- The current Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Yukon and the Yukon Medical Association establishes funding to promote equity, diversity and inclusion.
 - Funding includes opportunities for Physicians to learn about Yukon First Nations, Inuit and Metis People, 2SLGBTQ+, gender inequality and anti-racism issues.

Approved by:

Matt King

March 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

JUS 72
HSS 19
Spring 2025

Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Gender-based Violence

Justice, HSS

Recommended response

- The Government of Yukon recognizes that victims of gender-based violence in rural communities may need to travel from their community to access services or to seek safety from a perpetrator.
- The Government of Yukon has lowered barriers for inter-community transportation for rural victims of sexualized assault, intimate partner violence and anti-LGBTQ2S+ violence, with funding through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.
- Travel assistance for victims of gender-based violence includes support to leave a violent situation or to access time-sensitive clinical, legal or support services in another community.

Additional response:

- In addition to offering support through the Victim of Crime Emergency Fund for emergency or immediate needs, Victim Services is funding five non-governmental organizations to provide victims with low-barrier travel assistance to seek safety from a perpetrator, access services, and return to their community when they are ready.
- A campaign to increase awareness of these new transportation supports is in progress. Information on how to access support is available on yukon.ca.
- An inventory of transportation services for each community has been shared with service providers and we are building a roster of on-demand transportation providers for use by agencies delivering the travel assistance program to victims in rural communities who don't have access to a private vehicle or appropriate public transportation options.

Session Briefing Note

JUS 72
HSS 19
Spring 2025

Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Gender-based Violence

Justice, HSS

Context:

- Providing safe, reliable and affordable transportation between communities in the Yukon has been recommended in several recent reports including the What We Heard report on Expansion of SART Services in Rural Communities and the Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ Strategy.
- The 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA) also includes a commitment to continue to work with Yukon First Nations, communities and local businesses to develop low-cost transportation options for people travelling throughout the Yukon.

Background:

- Private sector transportation services between Yukon communities are limited. Larger communities outside of Whitehorse have some regular service, but other smaller communities have sporadic or no service at all.
- Trauma-informed transportation options for victims of gender-based violence in Yukon communities are even more limited. There are fewer options for confidential, 24/7 supports to quickly leave a violent or unsafe situation or access important services in a timely way.
- Each victim has access to varying levels of resources. Some may have access to a private vehicle or public transportation, while others do not have access to any means of transportation.
- Each victim also has unique needs. For example, some need access to consistent travel options to attend scheduled meetings with lawyers or medical appointments, while others require immediate transportation to escape the threat of violence and seek safety at a women's shelter or access one of Yukon's hospitals to access a Sexualized Assault Evidence Kit.
- The department is funding five non-governmental organizations to provide low-barrier travel assistance for victims of gender-based violence: the Council of Yukon First Nations, Queer Yukon, Yukon Women's Transition Home, Dawson Women's Shelter, and Help and Hope for Families.

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HSS 19
Spring 2025

Inter-Community Transportation for Victims of Gender-based Violence

Justice, HSS

- In addition to making travel assistance available through non-governmental organizations, the Department of Justice has increased the Victims of Crime Emergency Fund by \$10,000 per year until 2027 for emergency travel assistance for victims of crime, through the National Action Plan to end Gender-Based Violence.
- Funding for the Yukon from the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence includes multi-year funding of about \$270,000 per year until 2026-27 to address transportation barriers for rural victims of gender-based violence.
- Several recent reports and agreements have recommended providing safe and affordable transportation between Yukon communities, including:
 - The Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy, action item three in the Fourth Area of Growth: Community Safety and Wellbeing: Invest in preventing gender-based violence and improving services for victims of crime by expanding services to rural Yukon communities, including transportation to and from communities.
 - Yukon’s MMIWG2S+ Strategy action item 2.8: Create safe and affordable transportation and communication options to and between Yukon communities.
 - Putting People First Recommendation 2.9: Working in partnership with First Nations and municipal governments, provide safe and alternative driving services between rural communities and Whitehorse.
 - Aging in Place Action Plan recommended action 3.5: Develop partnerships with First Nations governments and the private sector to increase transportation options within and between communities.
 - CASA 2023 Commitment: Continue to work with Yukon First Nations, communities, and local businesses to develop low-cost transportation options for people travelling throughout the Yukon.

Approved by:

Jeff Simons
A/Deputy Minister, Justice

2025-02-03
Date approved

Matt King
Deputy Minister, HSS

January 29, 2025
Date approved

Operations and Maintenance

- WGED's 2025-26 budget is \$5,084,000, which is a decrease of \$80,000 from the 2024-25 restated Main Estimates.
- Key changes include:
 - Decrease of \$260,000 marking the completion of the NAPGBV program review
 - Increase of \$175,000 in Transfer Payment Agreements for operational funding to Queer Yukon Society; and
 - Small increase in Personnel.

Key investments include:

- \$1.61 million to support Yukon's implementation of the Nation Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence (NAP GBV)
- \$1.173 million to support partners in the implementation of Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit+ Strategy, including:
 - \$600,000 for the Indigenous Women's Equality Fund, supporting the operations of Indigenous women's organizations;
 - \$280,000 for accountability and implementation gatherings;
 - 2 FTEs to support the accountability and implementation of Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy.
- \$495,000 in continued support for the coordination and implementation of the LGBTQ2S+ Action Plan, including \$375,000 for Queer Yukon

Financial Summary

WGED

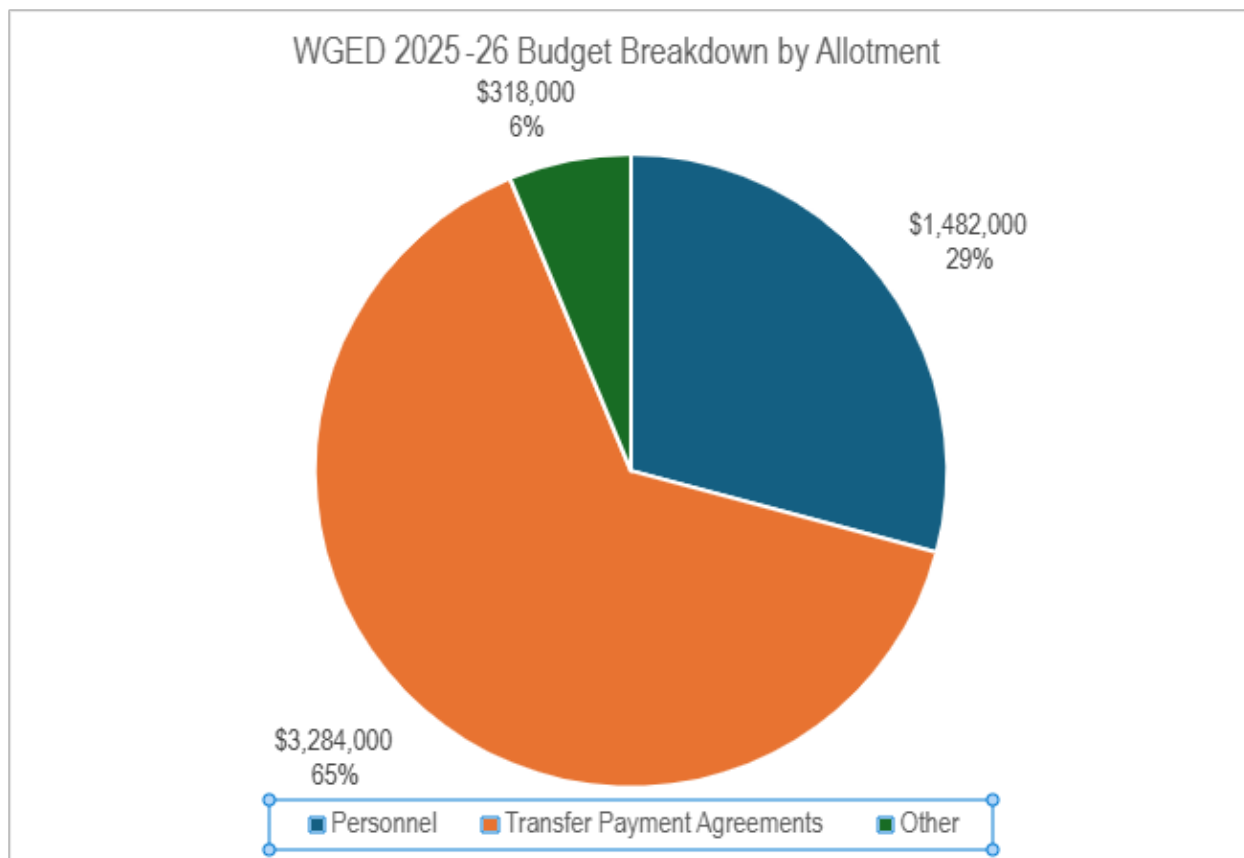
- \$207,000 in continued operational funding for women's organizations through the Women's Equality Fund

Capital

- WGED has no Capital

Recoveries

- \$1.61 in recoveries from Canada for the Nation Action Plan for Gender Based Violence
- \$100K in recoveries from Canada for the Crisis Hotline Agreement



Approved by:

Type or print name

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Department

February 28, 2025

[Date approved]

WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY DIRECTORATE

**Budget Briefing Book
2025-26**

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WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY DIRECTORATE

SUMMARY

To advance equitable economic, legal, and social outcomes of all gender and sexual orientations and advance the integration of intersectional considerations throughout government

To promote gender equitable outcomes and inclusion of all sexual orientations:

- by providing policy development and research within government legislation, policy, and programs and by leading the application of gender inclusive diversity analysis;
- through strategic leadership of interdepartmental initiatives to advance equity of all genders and sexual orientations; and
- through the provision of financial and programming support to organizations and community-based initiatives that advance the equity of all genders and sexual orientations.

| SUMMARY (\$000s) | 2025-26 ESTIMATE | 2024-25 FORECAST | 2024-25 ESTIMATE | 2023-24 ACTUAL |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|

Summary

Amounts to be Appropriated

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Operation and Maintenance (Vote 11-1) | | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |
| Capital (Vote 11-2) | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Appropriations | | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |

Financial Summary

Amounts to be Appropriated

| | | | | |
|--|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Operations and Maintenance (Vote 11-1) | | | | |
| Policy and Program Development | | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |
| Total Appropriations | | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |

Summary of Expense by Category

| | | | | |
|----------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Personnel | | 1,493 | 1,478 | 1,466 |
| Other | | 691 | 631 | 432 |
| Government Transfers | | 4,163 | 3,306 | 3,038 |
| Total Expenses | | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |

SUMMARY

\$5,084,000

FUNDING DISTRIBUTION AND DESCRIPTION

The Estimate for 2025-26 for WGED is \$5,084,000 and consists of:

\$ 1,482,000 Personnel 12.2 FTEs: 9.2 Indeterminate, 3.0 Term

- 1.0 Director
- 1.0 Manager, Finance and Administration
- 1.6 Policy Analysts
- 1.0 LGBTQ2S+ Project Coordinator
- 1.0 Senior Communications Analyst
- 1.0 Finance/Administration Assistant
- 0.6 Departmental Records Office Administration Assistant
- 2.0 Senior Advisor on MMIWG2S+
- 1.0 Funding Officer for the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence
- 2.0 Senior Advisor & Communications for the National Action Plan

\$ 318,000 Other

This includes in and out-of-territory travel, honoraria, contracts, repairs and maintenance, entertainment, rental expense, office supplies, advertising, program materials, communications, training, computer workstations, and printing

\$ 3,284,000 Government Transfers

- \$ 1,353,000** National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence
- \$ 600,000** Indigenous Women's Equality Fund
- \$ 375,000** Queer Yukon Society
- \$ 100,000** Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre - Women's Advocate
- \$ 207,000** Women's Equality Fund
- \$ 168,000** Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council - Sally and Sisters
- \$ 116,000** Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council - Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ Forums
- \$ 100,000** Crisis Hotline
- \$ 95,000** Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre - A Safe Place
- \$ 93,000** Skookum Jim Friendship Centre - Women's Legal Advocate Services
- Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition - Program Coordination/Delivery -
- \$ 77,000** Whitehorse Affordable Family Housing Complex

KEY BUDGET CHANGES FROM 2024-25

There is an **overall decrease of \$331,000** from the 2024-25 Mains with key budget changes as follows:

An **increase of \$4,000** in Personnel for Minor Salary Adjustment

An **decrease of \$313,000** in Other for the end of NAPGBV Program Review

An **decrease of \$22,000** in Transfer Payment Agreements for NAPGBV Funding and Queer Yukon Society offset by decreases in the Crisis Hotline and the Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund

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WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY DIRECTORATE

POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- To promote gender equitable outcomes and inclusion of all sexual orientations:
- by providing policy development and research within government legislation, policy, and programs and by leading the application of gender inclusive diversity analysis;
 - through strategic leadership of interdepartmental initiatives to advance equity of all genders and sexual orientations; and
 - through the provision of financial and programming support to organizations and community-based initiatives that advance the equity of all genders and sexual orientations.

Summary of O&M Appropriation by Activity

| PROGRAM SUMMARY (\$000s) | 2025-26 ESTIMATE | 2024-25 FORECAST | 2024-25 ESTIMATE | 2023-24 ACTUAL |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Amounts included in the Appropriation | | | | |
| Operation and Maintenance (Vote 11-1) | | | | |
| Program Delivery | | 5,904 | 4,772 | 4,315 |
| Public Education | | 172 | 372 | 374 |
| Policy, Research, and Development | | 271 | 271 | 247 |
| Total included in the Appropriation | | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |
| Summary of Appropriation by Allotment | | | | |
| Personnel | | 1,493 | 1,478 | 1,466 |
| Other | | 691 | 631 | 432 |
| Government Transfers | | 4,163 | 3,306 | 3,038 |
| Total included in the Appropriation | | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |
| | | | | |

Program Delivery**\$4,692,000****FUNDING DISTRIBUTION AND DESCRIPTION**

\$ 1,482,000 Personnel 12.2 FTEs: 9.2 Indeterminate, 3.0 Term

- 1.0 Director
- 1.0 Manager, Finance and Administration
- 1.6 Policy Analysts
- 1.0 LGBTQ2S+ Project Coordinator
- 1.0 Senior Communications Analyst
- 1.0 Finance/Administration Assistant
- 0.6 Departmental Records Office Administration Assistant
- 2.0 Senior Advisor on MMIWG2S+
- 1.0 Funding Officer for the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence
- 2.0 Senior Advisor & Communications for the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence

\$ 26,000 Other This includes in and out-of-territory travel, honoraria, contracts, repairs and maintenance, entertainment, rental expense, office supplies, advertising, program materials, communications, training, computer workstations, and printing

\$ 3,184,000 Government Transfers

- \$ 1,353,000** National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence
- \$ 600,000** Indigenous Women's Equality Fund
- \$ 375,000** Queer Yukon Society
- \$ 100,000** Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre - Women's Advocate
- \$ 207,000** Women's Equality Fund
- \$ 168,000** Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council - Sally and Sisters
- \$ 116,000** Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council - Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ Forums
- \$ 100,000** Crisis Hotline
- \$ 95,000** Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre - A Safe Place
- \$ 93,000** Skookum Jim Friendship Centre - Women's Legal Advocate Services
- \$ 77,000** Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition - Program Coordination/Delivery - Whitehorse Affordable Family Housing Complex

KEY BUDGET CHANGES FROM 2024-25

There is an **overall decrease of \$80,000** from the 2024-25 Mains with key budget changes as follows:

- 4,000 Increase in Personnel for minor salary adjustment
- 260,000 decrease in NAP GBV Funding Program Review
- 175,000 increase for Queer Yukon Society from 24-25 Mains

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WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY DIRECTORATE

POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- To promote gender equitable outcomes and inclusion of all sexual orientations:
- by providing policy development and research within government legislation, policy, and programs and by leading the application of gender inclusive diversity analysis;
 - through strategic leadership of interdepartmental initiatives to advance equity of all genders and sexual orientations; and
 - through the provision of financial and programming support to organizations and community-initiatives that advance the equity of all genders and sexual orientations.

Summary of O&M Appropriation by Activity

| | | Comparable | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|----------|---------|
| | | 2024-25 | 2024-25 | 2023-24 |
| PROGRAM SUMMARY (\$000s) | 2025-26 ESTIMATE | FORECAST | ESTIMATE | ACTUAL |
| Amounts included in the Appropriation | | | | |
| Operation and Maintenance (Vote 11-1) | | | | |
| Program Delivery | | 5,904 | 4,772 | 4,315 |
| Public Education | | 172 | 372 | 374 |
| Policy, Research, and Development | | 271 | 271 | 247 |
| Total included in the Appropriation | | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |
| Summary of Appropriation by Allotment | | | | |
| Personnel | | 1,493 | 1,478 | 1,466 |
| Other | | 691 | 631 | 432 |
| Government Transfers | | 4,163 | 3,306 | 3,038 |
| Total included in the Appropriation | | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |
| | | | | |

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Public Education | \$121,000 |
|------------------|-----------|

FUNDING DISTRIBUTION AND DESCRIPTION

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|---------|---|
| Other | \$ | 21,000 | This includes contracts, advertising, program materials, and printing |
| Government Transfers | \$ | 100,000 | Crisis Hotlines |

KEY BUDGET CHANGES FROM 2024-25

There is an **overall decrease of \$250,000** with key changes as follows:

An **decrease of \$50,000** from the Federal Crisis Hotline Funding Agreement

A **decrease of \$200,000** for the pause of the Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund

WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY DIRECTORATE

POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- To promote gender equitable outcomes and inclusion of all sexual orientations:
- by providing policy development and research within government legislation, policy, and programs and by leading the application of gender inclusive diversity analysis;
 - through strategic leadership of interdepartmental initiatives to advance equity of all genders and sexual orientations; and
 - through the provision of financial and programming support to organizations and community-based initiatives that advance the equity of all genders and sexual orientations.

Summary of O&M Appropriation by Activity

| PROGRAM SUMMARY (\$000s) | 2025-26 ESTIMATE | 2024-25 FORECAST | 2024-25 ESTIMATE | 2023-24 ACTUAL |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Amounts included in the Appropriation | | | | |
| Operation and Maintenance (Vote 11-1) | | | | |
| Program Delivery | | 5,904 | 4,772 | 4,315 |
| Public Education | | 172 | 372 | 374 |
| Policy, Research, and Development | | 271 | 271 | 247 |
| Total included in the Appropriation | | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |
| Summary of Appropriation by Allotment | | | | |
| Personnel | | 1,493 | 1,478 | 1,466 |
| Other | | 691 | 631 | 432 |
| Government Transfers | | 4,163 | 3,306 | 3,038 |
| Total included in the Appropriation | | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |

Policy, Research and Development**\$271,000****FUNDING DISTRIBUTION AND DESCRIPTION**

Other **\$ 271,000** Includes in-territory travel, honoraria, contracts, entertainment, rental expense, program materials, Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity (MACWAGE)

KEY BUDGET CHANGES FROM 2024-25

There is no increase or decrease.

Support to the implementation and accountability structures for Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy remains consistent at 2024-45 levels.

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WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY DIRECTORATE

POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

CAPITAL

- To promote gender equitable outcomes and inclusion of all sexual orientations:
- by providing policy development and research within government legislation, policy, and programs and by leading the application of gender inclusive diversity analysis;
 - through strategic leadership of interdepartmental initiatives to advance equity of all genders and sexual orientations; and
 - through the provision of financial and programming support to organizations and community initiatives that advance the equity of all genders and sexual orientations.

| FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$000s) | 2025-26 ESTIMATE | 2024-25 FORECAST | 2024-25 ESTIMATE | 2023-24 ACTUAL |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Amounts to be Appropriation | | | | |
| Operation and Maintenance (Vote 11-1) | | | | |
| Program Delivery | 4,692 | 5,904 | 4,772 | 4,315 |
| Public Education | 121 | 172 | 372 | 374 |
| Policy, Research, and Development | 271 | 271 | 271 | 247 |
| Total Operation and Maintenance (Vote 11-1) | 5,084 | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |
| Capital (Vote 11-2) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Capital (Vote 11-2) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Appropriations | 5,084 | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |
| Summary of Expense by Category | | | | |
| Personnel | 1,482 | 1,493 | 1,478 | 1,466 |
| Other | 318 | 691 | 631 | 432 |
| Government Transfers | 3,284 | 4,163 | 3,306 | 3,038 |
| Total Expenses | 5,084 | 6,347 | 5,415 | 4,936 |
| | | | | |

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Capital | \$0 |
|----------------|------------|

| |
|---|
| FUNDING DISTRIBUTION AND DESCRIPTION |
|---|

| |
|--|
| KEY BUDGET CHANGES FROM 2024-25 |
|--|

No changes from 2024-25

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WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY DIRECTORATE

| FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$000s) | 2025-26 ESTIMATE | 2024-25 FORECAST | 2024-25 ESTIMATE | 2023-24 ACTUAL |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Revenues | | | | |
| Recoveries from Canada | | | | |
| Operation and Maintenance | | 2,952 | 2,020 | 1,236 |
| Subtotal from Canada | | 2,952 | 2,020 | 1,236 |
| Total Revenues | | 2,952 | 2,020 | 1,236 |
| | | | | |

RECOVERIES FROM CANADA

| | | | | |
|---|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Operation and Maintenance | | | | |
| Policy and Program Development | | | | |
| Women and Gender Equality Canada | | | | |
| National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence | | 2,802 | 1,870 | 1,061 |
| Crisis Hotlines | | 150 | 150 | 175 |
| Prior Years' Recoveries | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Recoveries from Canada | | 2,952 | 2,020 | 1,236 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | | 2,952 | 2,020 | 1,236 |
| | | | | |

Revenues/Recoveries

\$1,710,000

FUNDING DISTRIBUTION AND DESCRIPTION

Recoveries **\$1,710,000** Recoveries from Canada

\$1,610,000 National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence

\$100,000 Crisis Hotline Agreement

KEY BUDGET CHANGES FROM 2024-25

There is an **overall decrease of 310,000** with key budget changes as follows:

Federal Funding Agreements

-\$260,000 Decrease in WGED's allocation of NAPGBV funding

-\$50,000 Decrease in Crisis Hotline Agreement

[Return to ToC](#)

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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

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

Prepared for Minister Silver
Finance

Date prepared: February 24, 2025

Last Updated:

Page 4 of 4

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****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

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Third response

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Inflation – Recent performance and outlook

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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

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

HOUSING

Capital projects supporting housing affordability

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

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

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

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

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

Winter Electrical Affordability Rebate (Yukon Development Corporation)

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

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

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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

Affordable Heat Pump Program (Energy, Mines and Resources)

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

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Dental Care program (Health and Social Services)

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

Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement (Health and Social Services)

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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

Social Assistance Review (Health and Social Services)

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

FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

Universal Child Care Program (Education)

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

Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund (Education)

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

Food in Schools program (Education)

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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

Fertility Tax Credit (Finance)

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

Yukon Child Benefit (Health and Social Services and Finance)

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

Out of Home Childcare Increases (Health and Social Services)

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

BUSINESSES and COMMUNITIES

Paid sick leave program (Economic Development)

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

Yukon Trade Resilience Program (Economic Development)

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

Curbside Recycling (Community Services)

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

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

April 15, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

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

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

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

Additional response:

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

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

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

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Implementation

Spring 2025
Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Third response:

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

ENV #20 / EMR #54

Spring 2025

Session Briefing Note Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

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

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

February 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Environment

Date approved

Paul Moore

February 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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 |

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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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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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 |

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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

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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

Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Update on Calls to Action

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Prepared for Premier Ranj Pillai
Executive Council Office

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

Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Update on Calls to Action

Executive Council
Office

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

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2025 01 30

Date

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

Recommended response:

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

Additional responses:

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

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Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

Economic and labour market

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

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Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

Finances

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

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Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

Local procurement

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

Independent Review Board

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

Historic overview

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

Approved By:

Sierra van der Meer

April 29, 2025

Deputy Minister
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date Approved

Justin Ferbey

2025 04 22

Deputy Minister
Executive Council Office

Date Approved

Jessica Schultz

April 25, 2025

Deputy Minister
Department of Finance

Date Approved

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

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

Response to Tariffs

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Economic and Trade Impact of Tariffs

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

First Ministers' Meetings

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Canada-US relations

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

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Yukon government's April 3, 2025 response

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

Yukon government's March 4, 2025 response

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2024 04 07

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved