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Recommended response:

- Significant work has gone into the five-year review of our cannabis legislation which has provided us with a solid baseline as to how legalization has worked out in the territory.
- It has provided us with valuable insights as to what is working well, as well as some issues and concerns that may need our attention.
- We are considering the findings and recommendations and will determine next steps as appropriate.
- We will continue to responsibly regulate cannabis in the Yukon and the results of the review will inform how we approach issues going forward.

Additional response:

- We are monitoring potential changes to the federal cannabis legislation as they arise.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Following the tabling of the review report in fall 2024, stakeholders, Yukoners in general and the media may expect legislative changes to the cannabis framework to be implemented shortly. The Official Opposition has previously raised questions about timing of legislative amendments to the Act.

Background:

Five-year review of the Cannabis Control and Regulation Act

- The review included engagement with Yukon First Nations and a wide range of stakeholders including government departments and agencies, cannabis industry, RCMP, non-governmental organizations and the general public.
- The review includes key findings and recommendations for future areas of research and policy development.
- These findings and recommendations include:
 - The perceived normalization of cannabis is concerning as legalization of a substance does not mean its consumption is without risks.
 - Yukoners are concerned about the high rate of cannabis consumption among youth and adolescents. Yukoners have consumed cannabis at higher per capita rates than the national average since long before legalization. Yukon's overall cannabis prevalence has remained fairly stable since legalization with general consumption patterns tracking relatively close in line with Canadian averages.
 - Cannabis-impaired driving rates in the Yukon are similar to national rates and are a concern for safety on the Yukon's roads and highways.
 - Yukoners have made a strong transition from purchasing illicit cannabis to purchasing from licensed cannabis retailers: 82% of consumers buys from legal sources. However, there's public misunderstanding around which online sites are legitimate, and which are not.
 - The review identified a range of technical and administrative considerations and possible policy approaches to improve the cannabis legislation.
- Addressing the review findings may require a combination of potential legislative amendments as well as public education-related initiatives.

Federal review of the Cannabis Act

- The Cannabis Act review report was tabled in March 2024 and includes recommendations to improve the administration of the Act, some of which relate to provincial/territorial jurisdiction.
- Health Canada is analyzing the report and its recommendations.

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Cannabis – Act and regulations

Yukon Liquor Corp.

- Health Canada is seeking out areas of collaboration between Canada and the provinces and territories following the recommendations in the review report. One of those area is cannabis public education. Yukon Liquor Corporation is a participant in the newly formed working group focused on this subject matter.

Approved by:
Philippe Mollet

January 29, 2025

President, Yukon Liquor Corporation

Date approved

Cannabis – Public health and safety

Yukon Liquor Corp.

Recommended response

- We have seen a strong transition from illicit to legal cannabis sales in the Yukon with 82% of consumers purchasing from legal sources.
- We will continue to support the growth of the legal market to displace illicit sources.
- The Corporation is looking into initiatives and partnerships with other government departments and organizations to encourage safer consumption.
- The Corporation works with licensees to educate and ensure understanding and compliance with the cannabis legislation.

Additional response:

- Monitoring of cannabis consumption patterns in the Yukon is ongoing.
- The Yukon Substance Surveillance Report highlights the impacts of substance use on the health and well-being of Yukoners. The negative effects of cannabis use are relatively low in relation to other substances.
- Last summer, the Yukon Liquor Corporation carried out a Yukon-wide campaign with licensees to remind the public about responsible legal age limits for purchasing cannabis and reduce underage consumption.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Following the tabling of the five-year review report in fall 2024, as well as the release of quarterly Substance Use Surveillance Reports, questions may arise about consumption patterns in the territory and next steps.

Cannabis – Public health and safety

Yukon Liquor Corp.

Background:

- The Substance Use Surveillance Report presents data from Yukon Emergency Medical Services, hospital emergency departments, hospital admissions and the Chief Coroner. First published in November 2024 and updated in February 2025, this initiative is part of YG's commitment to evidence-based decision making in addressing the Substance Use Health Emergency. The report is ongoing with quarterly updates.
- The cannabis five-year review highlighted various concerns related to public health and safety such as cannabis normalization, ongoing high consumption rates, impaired driving concerns and confusion in distinguishing between legal/illegal online sources.
- The corporation is looking into ways to support increased public awareness of the potential harms of cannabis, as well as increasing the public's understanding of legal versus illicit sources of cannabis.
- The corporation is also a member of a public education working group with provincial, territorial and federal counterparts aimed at sharing best practices and lessons learned.

Approved by:

Phillipe Mollet

April 30, 2025

President, Yukon Liquor Corporation

Date approved

Cannabis Licensing and Enforcement

Yukon Liquor Corp.

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Liquor Corporation supports licensees in meeting the conditions of their licences by educating them about their responsibilities and providing access to free cannabis server training.
- The corporation ran an ID blitz campaign last summer to remind cannabis retailers of their obligations to check IDs and deny service to minors.

Additional response:

- Cannabis licensing applications follow a rigorous process to determine the eligibility and suitability of any potential cannabis licensee.
- We are supportive of a thriving cannabis retail market; however, we also recognize the independence of the Cannabis Licensing Board to grant, deny or renew licences.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Liquor Corporation recently completed a five-year review of the *Cannabis Control and Regulation Act*, which could result in questions about Cannabis licensing.

Background:

- From June 2024 to labour weekend in September, the corporation launched a Check 30 and ID blitz campaign. The purpose was to remind licensees of their responsibilities to check identification, especially if a customer looks 30 years old or younger, and to remind the public to bring government-issued identification when purchasing alcohol or cannabis from a licensed establishment.

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Cannabis Licensing and Enforcement

Yukon Liquor Corp.

- The cannabis licensing process involves a comprehensive application, criminal record checks, review of financial information, a public notification period, potentially a board hearing if objections are received from the public, as well as inspection of the proposed licensed premises.
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation reviews cannabis licence applications for accuracy and completeness and provides an application analysis to assist the Board in their consideration of an application.

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet

April 29, 2025

President, Yukon Liquor Corporation

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Yukon has strong cannabis sales overall. Every retailer will feel this differently depending on their market share.
- Retail sales in the Yukon during the 2023-24 fiscal year were close to \$13 million. This is a \$2 million or 18% increase from 2022-23.
- The Corporation forecasts sales and expenses every year for this evolving industry. Any surplus is returned to the Government of Yukon to contribute to services and programs for all Yukoners.

Pricing

- The Yukon Liquor Corporation reduced the wholesale markup and cost of service in consultation with licensees at the end of 2021. This reduction returned approximately \$105,000 to licensees the following year and represents continued savings.
- Licensed cannabis retailers set their own retail prices, whether that is for products priced lower to compete with the illicit market or higher priced premium products.

Variety and supply

- The Yukon's cannabis retailers influence which cannabis suppliers the Corporation signs on, and which products are purchased by the Corporation for wholesale distribution.
- The Corporation meets regularly with licensees to discuss product variety and supply, and to address any questions they have.
- Over the past two years, the Corporation has expanded the special-order program offered to licensees to support them in ordering the exact products they want for their store.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The *Cannabis Control and Regulation Act* Five-Year Review Report includes feedback on pricing and supply from the general public and licensees. The feedback comes from a five-year perspective since legalization and some of the concerns may not be recent or may have already been resolved.

Background:

- As the wholesale distributor, the Corporation invests in up to \$1 million dollars of inventory to ensure licensees have access to up to 8 weeks' worth of products in the territory. This helps to support licensees limited by space and cash flow for purchasing products, and in case of disruptions to shipping.
- In 2021, the Yukon Liquor Corporation reviewed cannabis pricing, together with licensees and a consulting firm. Cost-of-service was revised from a per-gram to a per-unit basis. Under the previous cost of service rate, large formats such as 28-gram bags had a cost-of-service charge to licensees of \$14 per unit. Under the new rate, the cost-of-service for the 28-gram bag is \$2.15.
- The wholesale markup was adjusted from 22% to 20% in December 2021 to further support licensees.
- The Corporation worked with a contractor to gather feedback on how these changes supported licensees and determined that the wholesale markup reduction provided savings of approximately \$105,000 to licensees in 2022.

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet

February 5, 2025

President, Yukon Liquor Corporation

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The new *Liquor Act* received assent in 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since that time, the socioeconomic context has changed significantly.
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation is advancing this work for completion as soon as practicable.
- The corporation remains responsive to new information and developments in its efforts to introduce modernized liquor regulations that will support the new Act.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- In 2023, the Department of Health and Social Services released the *Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy* and the *Putting People First Annual Report*, both of which contained recommendations pertaining to liquor legislation. Renewed interest in these reports and their recommendations may result from the department's release of the *Substance Use Surveillance Reports*, which identify alcohol as a substance of concern.
- During the fall 2024 sitting, the official opposition put forward Motion 1092, which may require legislative amendments if actioned.

Background:

- Given the legislation is over 40 years old, the Yukon Liquor Corporation undertook a review of the *Liquor Act* starting in 2017.
- Public engagement began in November 2017 and continued into 2019. Feedback was received from First Nation and municipal governments, industry and other stakeholders, as well as the public.
- The *Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy* contains the following recommendations relevant to the *Liquor Act* (2019):

- “Expand efforts to prevent alcohol-related harms by ensuring that new regulations under the *Liquor Act* balance the needs of businesses and communities.”
 - “Implement a managed alcohol program.”
- The *Putting People First* Annual Report contains a recommendation relevant to the *Liquor Act* (2019):
 - Improve health outcomes and reduce the social harms by introducing a suite of evidence-informed policy and legislative changes to encourage a culture of moderate alcohol consumption in the territory and create an environment that supports individual decision-making.
- Motion 1092 states:

“That this House urges the Yukon Liquor Corporation to make operational changes to maximize operational flexibility and ensure timely and reliable access to a full selection of local products, including:

- 1) Licensee direct purchasing from local producers;
- 2) Licensee to licensee purchasing; and
- 3) Offsite liquor production and/storage.”

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet

April 30, 2025

President, Yukon Liquor Corporation

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Overall, alcohol sales by volume have shown a decrease in Canada and the Yukon for the past several years.
- We continue to work to minimize the harms associated with alcohol by balancing the interests of the industry while promoting community wellbeing and socially responsible initiatives.
- We remain supportive of the commitments in the Substance Use Emergency strategy.
- We are encouraged by the increased interest in alcohol-free or low-alcohol beverage market in the Yukon.

Additional response:

- The Yukon Liquor Corporation supports initiatives to minimize the harms associated with alcohol, such as:
 - Funding a shuttle service for the 2024 and 2025 Rendezvous Festivals.
 - Sponsoring content this winter on the sober curious movement in local media.
 - Offering a non-alcoholic beverage awareness and tasting campaign at corporation liquor stores for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder awareness month.
 - Holding an identification blitz campaign last summer with liquor licensees to bring attention to the legal age limit for purchasing and consuming alcohol.
 - Continuing to fund Safe Grad events.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The issue of impaired driving in the Yukon was raised by the RCMP in January 2025 during an interview with CBC that the territory continues to have the second-highest impaired driving rate in the country.
- Data in the Yukon Substance Use Surveillance reports show alcohol as the substance disproportionately causing the largest demand on the territory's health care system.

Background:

- Alcohol consumption in the Yukon has been and continues to be at one of the highest rates per capita in Canada, according to Yukon Health Status reports.
- On January 20, 2022, the Government of Yukon declared a Substance Use Health Emergency in response to the dramatic increase in overdose-related deaths and substance-use related harms in the territory. Despite diligent efforts to expand and improve mental wellness and substance-use related services in the territory, many Yukoners still struggle with substance use, most exceptionally with alcohol.
- The Yukon Substance Use Surveillance Reports show data on drug and alcohol use from emergency medical services, hospital emergency departments, hospital admissions and the chief coroner.
- Following the release of the first Substance Use Surveillance Report in November 2024, the Chief Medical Officer of Health stated that the burden of alcohol use on the territory's health care system far exceeds the burden of any other substance.
- The RCMP stated during an interview on January 13, 2025, that based on Statistics Canada data from 2020-2021, impaired driving rates in the Yukon are second highest in the country.

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet

April 29, 2025

President, Yukon Liquor Corporation

Date approved

Liquor Licensing and Enforcement

Yukon Liquor Corp.

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Liquor Corporation works with licensees by educating them about their responsibilities, as well as issuing penalties if infractions occur.
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation continues to work with licensees and permittees to ensure knowledge, understanding and compliance with the *Liquor Act* and regulations.
- The corporation supports licensees and permit holders for events and special occasions by offering free responsible serving training.

Additional response:

- Alcohol and cannabis are distinct substances with different histories, so the licensing and regulatory approaches vary.
- The independent Yukon Liquor Board is responsible for all licensing decisions.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There have been questions in the past that compare licensing decisions and licence conditions for liquor to the licensing regime for cannabis.

Background:

- From June 2024 to Labour Day weekend in September, the corporation launched a Check 30 and ID blitz campaign. The purpose was to remind licensees of their responsibilities to check identification, especially if a customer looks 30 years old or younger, and remind the public to bring government-issued identification when purchasing alcohol or cannabis from a licensed establishment.
- The Be A Responsible Server – Liquor (BARS-L) training remains free for staff of the Yukon's licensed establishments. In November 2022, the corporation put the

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Liquor Licensing and Enforcement

Yukon Liquor Corp.

training online to make it more accessible. In-person offerings are also available upon request.

- The BARS-L training covers a server's obligations in relation to the *Liquor Act*, highlighting that service to minors or overservice of alcohol is not compliant with the legislation.

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet

April 30, 2025

President,
Yukon Liquor Corporation

Date approved

Recommended response:

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

Additional responses:

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

- On November 4, 2024, the Official Opposition put forward a motion regarding the hospitality sector.

- The Official Opposition also tabled a petition on October 31, 2024, and raised questions on October 21, 2024, regarding a letter sent to the Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation in 2023 from the Food and Beverage Committee of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce. There were 53 licensee signatories on the petition. The Official Opposition may raise similar questions.
- Liquor store customers and licensees are sensitive to liquor price changes.

Background:

Price structure and discounts

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

YLC's work and correspondence with industry

- The Government of Yukon provided a suite of supports for businesses during the pandemic and the Yukon Liquor Corporation adjusted the liquor pricing structure

Liquor price structure

Yukon Liquor Corp.

in 2021 to further assist the recovery. Licensees worked with the corporation on the pricing structure in 2021 in a series of detailed working group meetings.

- Following a letter sent by the Food and Beverage Committee of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce in May 2023, the Minister and Premier met with committee members on several occasions between August 2023 and February 2024 to understand the nature of their concerns.
- YLC staff maintained contact with a member of the Food and Beverage Committee to discuss the committee's requests and determine potential options.
- Staff from the Yukon Liquor Corporation looked into the requests relating directly to liquor; however, the specific requests changed from spring to fall in 2023.
- On April 4, 2024, the Yukon Liquor Corporation hosted members of the Yukon Chamber Commerce by providing a tour of the liquor warehouse and gave a presentation to clarify liquor operations, such as the sourcing and supply of liquor, pricing, and social responsibility.
- The corporation has actioned industry requests as possible, for example, more variety and increased in availability of special-order products.

Approved by:
Philippe Mollet

April 30, 2025

President, Yukon Liquor Corporation

Date approved

Liquor supply & shipping contracts

Yukon Liquor Corp.

Recommended response:

- Yukon Liquor Corporation adheres to the Government of Yukon's procurement policies and works with the Department of Highways and Public Works during tendering processes.
- The Corporation follows the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy, which is a Government of Yukon policy.
- The Corporation has the sole power to import liquor products into the Yukon for re-sale.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The opposition has previously raised questions about procurement policies in general with the Minister responsible for Highways and Public Works; however, specific questions about the Corporation's shipping contracts may arise.

Background:

- Yukon Liquor Corporation contracts out shipping for products sourced from British Columbia and Alberta to the YLC warehouse in Whitehorse. It also contracts freight companies for delivery to YLC stores and licensees across the territory.
- In March 2024, the Corporation awarded 2-year contracts for shipping liquor products into the territory from BC and Alberta, as well as awarding 2-year contracts for 8 in-territory shipping routes (Watson Lake, Carcross/Tagish, Whitehorse, Haines Junction, Faro, Mayo, Dawson City, Eagle Plains).
- Unsuccessful bidders were notified, and post-tender debriefings were scheduled to give these bidders the chance to learn about the scoring for their own bids.

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Liquor supply & shipping contracts

Yukon Liquor Corp.

- These shipping tenders were value-driven, meaning they were evaluated on a points basis rather than price.

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet

April 29, 2025

President, Yukon Liquor Corporation

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon stands with its Canadian partners to protect Yukoners and Canadians against the economic effects of US tariffs imposed on Canadian goods and services.
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation has stopped placing new orders of US-made alcohol products since March 2025.
- The Corporation has removed US-made alcohol products from the shelves in its six liquor stores.
- The Yukon's liquor licensees may continue to sell the US-made alcohol products that they have in stock and purchase US-made alcohol products from the Corporation until remaining products are depleted.

If asked about internal trade of alcohol:

- We are working with our federal, provincial and territorial counterparts on a number of critical areas where we see potential to reduce trade barriers.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Media outlets continue to cover the developments around the US tariffs and reactions from Canadian jurisdictions.
- Customers of the Yukon Liquor Corporation store have shown an interest in the removal of US-made products from shelves.

Background:

Non-tariff measures

- Countermeasures by the Government of Yukon include banning all American-made alcohol products from future wholesale orders by the Yukon Liquor

Corporation and removing US-made alcohol products from YLC’s liquor stores shelves.

- Premiers of all Canadian jurisdictions have announced ceasing to purchase US-made alcohol in retaliation to US tariffs.

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet

April 29, 2025

President, Yukon Liquor Corporation

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The GST rebate was a temporary measure to remove the Goods and Service Tax from qualifying products according to federal law from December 13 to February 15, 2025.
- Like all retail stores, Yukon Liquor Corporation stores adhere to the federal government's laws for sales taxes.
- Yukon Liquor Corporation stores implemented the temporary GST rebate according to the public guidance provided by the Canada Revenue Agency. YLC stores also made signage available to explain the rebate to customers.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Various news outlets across Canada covered the federal government's decision to implement the temporary GST break, along with covering stories about the effect on small businesses.

Background:

- On December 12, 2024, the Government of Canada passed a bill to amend the *Excise Tax Act*, providing for a two-month Goods and Services Tax (GST) break for a specified list of goods, including various beverages.
- Beverages included in the rebate:
 - alcohol-free products;
 - fermented alcoholic beverages up to 22.9 per cent alcohol by beverage volume (ABV); and
 - products containing distilled alcohol up to 7 per cent ABV.

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Liquor Federal – GST rebate

Yukon Liquor Corp.

- The temporary GST relief was scheduled from December 14, 2024, to close of business on February 15, 2025.
- No GST should be charged on a qualifying item that is both paid for in full and made available for pick up between December 14, 2024 and February 15, 2025.
- The Canada Revenue Agency communicated the nuances of the temporary relief period to affected businesses by updating a Government of Canada website.
- On December 6, 2024, the federal NDP put forward a motion to make the GST break permanent. The motion was defeated.
- Restaurants Canada announced that dining increased for restaurants in Alberta and British Columbia in the month of December. In a January press release, the advocacy association is also urging the federal government to make the GST and HST tax break on prepared food permanent.

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet

February 5, 2025

President, Yukon Liquor Corporation

Date approved

Recommended response:

- As Minister responsible for the Yukon Liquor Corporation, my goal is to find an appropriate balance between:
 - the needs of licensees;
 - the need to return dollars to government to fund crucial services for all Yukoners; and
 - social responsibility.
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation works on initiatives above and beyond normal business to support licensees and communities.

Additional response:

Cannabis operations

- In 2021, the wholesale markup for cannabis was reduced from 22% to 20%. This represented an approximate \$105,000 investment in the Yukon's cannabis industry between December 2021 and December 2022.
- In 2021, the corporation updated the cost of service for cannabis, shifting from a per-gram to per-unit pricing structure. For some products, the cost-of-service decreased significantly from \$14 dollars to as low as \$2.15.
 - This change highlights the Yukon Liquor Corporation's commitment to finding efficiencies that both support the local cannabis industry and ensure that Yukoners have access to a legal, and safer option if they choose to consume cannabis products.

Achievements

Yukon Liquor Corp.

- In May 2022, the corporation introduced cannabis e-commerce and delivery regulations, granting the Yukon's private retailers the opportunity to engage in online sales of cannabis.
- In October 2022, the corporation made the strategic move to close its online retail store, marking the corporation's exit from the cannabis retail business.
- This government remains committed to its mandate of advocating for a federal review of cannabis packaging requirements. Our goal is to ensure that packaging is environmentally friendly while still maintaining safety standards. To support this, we sent letters to federal ministers in 2022 and 2023, urging action.
- The corporation supported cannabis licensees in expanding their product variety by:
 - increasing cannabis warehouse capacity through an extension;
 - conducting a cannabis inventory review and evolving the special order process; and
 - putting in place a process to support cannabis licensees in accepting samples from licensed producers, helping licensees to decide whether to offer a product.
- The corporation completed the five-year review of the *Cannabis Control and Regulation Act*. The final version of the report was released in October 2024.
 - The review focused on the Yukon's cannabis legislation, particularly the principles of protecting youth, protecting public health and safety, and displacing the illicit market.

Liquor operations

- In 2021, the Yukon Liquor Corporation adjusted the discount from 12 percent to 17 percent when licensees purchase large producer products and 18 per cent on small producer products.
 - This adjustment to the pricing structure represents approximately \$1.1 million more revenue per year in licensee pockets.
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation continues to source products from both Alberta and British Columbia. By sourcing products from both provinces, the corporation reduces the risk of a disruption in the supply chain and can offer more choices to consumers and licensees.

Social responsibility

- In July 2022, the Yukon Liquor Corporation and Health and Social Services provided \$46,000 to the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society Yukon for a healing camp at Jackson Lake.
- In 2022, to combat the substance use health emergency in the Yukon, the corporation worked with Blood Ties to provide naloxone kits and fentanyl test kits as a pilot project through the Mayo liquor store's Territorial Agent services.
- Following the initial pilot project, the Yukon Liquor Corporation partnered with the department of Health and Social Services to provide kits in all community corporate stores through the Territorial Agent Services.
 - Both naloxone and fentanyl test kits have been available across all Yukon Liquor Corporation stores since early 2024.

- In 2022, the corporation expanded the offering of the BARS-L liquor server training course through an online platform to make it more accessible to licensees.
 - Additionally, in 2023, the corporation updated the BARS-L course content to include the latest information on low-risk drinking guidelines from the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addictions.
- In December 2023, the corporation provided funding to FASSY to support a non-alcoholic holiday dinner for FASSY clients and their families.
- For Rendezvous 2024, the corporation piloted offering a free shuttle service to encourage festival-goers to consider safe and alternative transportation to driving impaired.
- Also during Rendezvous 2024, the Yukon Liquor Corporation also piloted new advertisements to remind Yukoners of the safety risks of consuming alcohol and being outdoors when temperatures are below freezing.
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation conducted a territory-wide ID blitz in summer 2024 as a part of the Check 30 program. While the campaign ran in past years for liquor licensees, it was expanded to include cannabis licensees last year.
 - During the ID blitz, the corporation ran a public awareness campaign reminding the public to bring valid, government-issued photo ID.
 - Additionally, the Yukon Liquor Corporation continues to work closely with licensees to ensure they understand their

obligations to check the ID of customers who appear under the age of 30, which is a key factor in preventing underage consumption.

- In support of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder awareness month this past September, the Yukon Liquor Corporation held weekly alcohol-free tastings across corporation liquor stores.
 - This initiative was intended to educate the public about the importance of making alcohol-free options available for people who are pregnant.
- The corporation sponsored content this winter on the sober curious movement in local media.
- For Rendezvous 2025, the Yukon Liquor Corporation provided funding to the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous society to offer a free shuttle service during the festival to encourage festival-goers to consider safe, alternative transportation with the aim of discouraging impaired driving.
- The corporation continues to fund the “Safe Grad” initiative annually, which is designed to help graduation planners keep graduates safe from alcohol and drug use during celebrations by hosting substance-free graduation events.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Liquor Corporation is mandated to return the profits from liquor and cannabis sales to the Government of Yukon. The remitted profits go towards a variety of programs for Yukoners.

Achievements

Yukon Liquor Corp.

Background:

- The Yukon Liquor Corporation is responsible for the wholesale distribution and regulation of liquor and cannabis products in the territory.
- The corporation also sells liquor through its six liquor stores across the territory.
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation's strategic priorities include:
 - Facilitating the lawful importation, production, sale, service and possession of liquor and cannabis, while promoting social responsibility in the public interest.
 - Providing service excellence that supports a healthy, vibrant and prosperous Yukon.
 - Offering our customers legal access to a variety of liquor and cannabis products while considering the wellbeing and economic prosperity of the Yukon.

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet

April 30, 2025

President,
Yukon Liquor Corporation

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Our government is supportive of Yukoners leading healthy and active lives, and appreciates the funding support that Lotteries Yukon provides to arts, sports, and recreation activities across the Territory.
- The Yukon Lottery Commission is an independent body responsible for the oversight of lottery activities in the Yukon and for reinvesting profits from lottery ticket sales into arts, sport, and recreation in the Yukon.
- I respect the independence of the Yukon Lottery Commission in its decision-making.
- Our government is proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary for Lotteries Yukon this year.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- In December, previous recipients of the Project Fund were invited to participate in a survey. This may raise questions as to whether Lotteries Yukon or the Yukon Lottery Commission is planning any changes to funding.
- Lotteries Yukon issued a press release in February about funding for a state of the art, mobile stage to the Yukon Arts Centre, which may raise interest in its funding and activities.

Background:

- Lotteries Yukon will celebrate its 50th anniversary throughout 2025, with several large-scale community events being planned.
- Lotteries Yukon distributes profits from interjurisdictional lottery sales to arts, sport, and recreational activities throughout the Yukon.

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LY-01

Spring 2025

Funding Programs

Lotteries Yukon

- Yukon Lottery Commission is a government board comprised of volunteers that operates at arms-length. The Commission makes decisions about funding for sport, arts and recreation, and administers interjurisdictional lotteries in the Yukon. Lotteries revenue is held in a trust fund, which is then used to fund arts, sport, and recreation activities.
- In 2023/24, the Yukon Lottery Commission approved \$5,190,261.85 of funding for arts, sport, and recreation activities throughout the Yukon. (see table below).

Lotteries Yukon Funding Programs		Funding provided to YG	
Projects Fund: Regular Intake, Opportunities, Three-Year Plan	\$2,017,034	Yukon Arts Advisory Council	\$469,004
Projects Fund: Strategic Partnerships		Yukon Sport & Recreation Advisory Committee	\$689,617
Yukon Arts Centre Corp.	\$ 788,685		
Sport Yukon	\$ 227,415		
Community Lottery Program	\$651,958		
Travel Assistance Program	\$346,549		
Total:	\$4,031,641	Total:	\$1,158,621

- Only Yukon non-profit organizations are eligible for the Project Fund. Up to \$20,000 is available for festivals, events, and productions; up to \$100,000 is available for equipment, minor construction and renovations.

Approved by:

Philippe Mollet

April 30, 2025

Secretary, Lotteries Yukon

Date approved

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

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

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

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

Session Briefing Note
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.

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Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

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

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

February 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Environment

Date approved

Paul Moore

February 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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

Recommended response:

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

Additional response (federal government changes in policy):

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

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

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

Third response:

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

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

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

Background:

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

Approved by:**Dennis Berry**

Deputy Minister of Environment

March 10, 2025

Date approved

Jessica Schultz

Deputy Minister of Finance

March 10, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

Recommended response:

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

Additional responses:

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

Economic and labour market

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

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Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

Finances

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

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Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

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Local procurement

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

Independent Review Board

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

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Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

Historic overview

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

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

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

Approved By:

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

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

Context:

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

Background:

Section 1: Yukon population

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

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Section 2: Housing statistics

Average Whitehorse house prices (YBS)

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

Yukon rents and vacancies (YBS)

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

New residential permits issued, Yukon (YBS)

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

Residential building construction, Yukon (YBS)

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

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

City of Whitehorse, new housing completions (CMHC)

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

Section 3: Capital projects recently completed by YHC or partners

Since 2022:

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

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

YHC projects completed 2022-2024

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

Major partnership projects completed 2022-2024

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

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

YHC projects underway

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

Major partnership projects underway or completed

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

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Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

YHC projects planned

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

Section 5: Support for new residential land development

September 2024	As part of the Government of Yukon's ongoing commitment to increase land and housing availability and support business growth, new residential and industrial lots are being released in communities across the Yukon in partnership with municipalities and Yukon First Nations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> seven residential lots in Haines Junction, Mayo and Watson Lake; and three industrial lots in Teslin and Haines Junction This is the sixth lot release this year and is a direct result of the Government of Yukon's historic investment in land development. Since 2021, 685 lots have been released through lotteries and tenders, with over 1,000 expected by 2026. (TABS # 37 & 38).
August 2024	As part of its efforts to work in collaboration with municipalities and Yukon First Nations governments to address housing and business space needs across the territory, the Government of Yukon has released 33 new residential lots across the Yukon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twelve lots are available in Carmacks and Faro 21 country residential lots are available in the Lone Tree subdivision north of Teslin.
June 2023	Government of Yukon partnered with the Government of Canada and the City of Dawson to develop four new residential lots in Dawson.
February 2023	120 lots, including single family, multi-family and townhouse lots in Whistle Bend made available through public lottery.

Section 6: Tenants in Yukon Housing RGI units

YHC Unit Status as of April 24, 2025

Breakdown	Employee	RGI	Total
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TAB #1
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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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Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

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

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

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

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

Time on Waitlist based on Secondary Status

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

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

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

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

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

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

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

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

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

Section 9: Loans and Grants programs

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

Developer Build Loan Program

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

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

3. **Home Ownership Loan Program** – A spring 2024 review found it was not adequately supporting the needs of Yukoners, prompting the transition to the new program. The program has been replaced by the Yukoner First Home Program.
4. **Municipal Matching Rental Construction Program (MMRCP)** – This is a one-time capital grant for projects that receive a municipal development incentive. It is meant to help increase the supply of rental housing in communities.

MMRCP

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

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

Grants stream:

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

Loans stream:

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

Accessibility stream:

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

Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Emergency stream:

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

Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Wildfire Grants stream:

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

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

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

April 25, 2025
Date Approved

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

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

Response to Tariffs

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Economic and Trade Impact of Tariffs

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

First Ministers' Meetings

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Canada-US relations

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

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Yukon government's April 3, 2025 response

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

Yukon government's March 4, 2025 response

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

Session Briefing Note

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Spring 2025

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2024 04 07

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved

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

Recommended response:

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

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

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

Additional response:

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

Session Briefing Note

2024-25 Supplementary Overview (Corporate Note)

Embargoed until tabled

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

February 24, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved

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

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

Recommended response:

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

Additional response

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

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

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

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

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

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

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

Background:

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

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

February 25, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date Approved

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.

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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.

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- 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

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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.

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

Fertility Tax Credit (Finance)

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

Yukon Child Benefit (Health and Social Services and Finance)

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

Out of Home Childcare Increases (Health and Social Services)

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

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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.

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Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

April 15, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date Approved