

Community Services
Legislative Briefing Notes
Spring 2024 sitting

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CS Accomplishments

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Regulatory and Consumer Affairs

PLRA- Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, **ESRT**- Employment Standards and Residential Tenancies, **PAT**- Property Assessment and Taxation,
CORP- Corporate Affairs, **PL**- Public Libraries, **BS**- Building Safety

Date	Accomplishment	Branch	Priority
Feb 2024	Review of Residential Landlord and Tenant Act is underway and Public Engagement began on February 1 st .	ESRT	CASA 2023
Sept 2023	Yukon Public Libraries abolished late fees	PL	Government Priority (red tape reduction)
Spring 2024	Yukon Public Libraries is partnership with HSS piloting Library Outreach Worker program	PL	
July 2023	In July 2023, Yukon Public Libraries upgraded its online system. Changes include a new catalogue which will make navigating the online resources easier and introduces new features. Official launch was in October, 2023 during Library Month.	PL	
July 2023	Launched SEDAR+ with other jurisdictions. The new system is used by all market participants to file, disclose and search for securities issuer info in Canada's capital markets	CORP	Government Priority (red tape reduction)
Spring 2023	Established National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a Yukon statutory day	ESRT	TRC to Action
April 2023	In April 2023, Building Safety implemented the new National Building Code.	BS	Routine adoption of updates to Building Standards Act.

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April 1, 2023	Effective April 1, 2024, Yukon's minimum wage will increase from \$16.77 to \$17.59 per hour, the second highest in the country, following NU.	ESRT	Putting People First
Feb 2024	Rent index renewed and capped at 4.9% (this is a reduction from 5% in 2023).	ESRT	CASA 2023
February, 2024	Better Building Program continues to enrol eligible participants and has 58 applicants to date. Low-interest energy efficiency loan program for all Yukon property owners.	PAT	Mandate
April 2021	Management of the new Societies Act has moved to the Profession Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch where it benefits from alignment between charitable gaming and registered societies. Transition to the new act will be complete April 3, 2024 and PLRA is working with remaining societies to come into compliance.	ESRT	Mandate
April 15, 2021	The <i>Midwifery Regulation</i> , standards of practice and code of ethics come into effect. The regulatory framework for the practice of Midwifery in the territory is a key step to regulate, fund, and integrate midwifery into the Yukon's health care system.	PLRA	Putting People First
2021	New leave in <i>Employment Standards Act</i> provides access to paid or unpaid leave for eligible victims of domestic or sexualized violence.	ESRT	October 2019 mandate letter
August 1, 2019 June 28, 2022	The <i>Pharmacist Regulation</i> came into effect under the <i>Health Professions Act</i> , and was a key step in modernizing the regulation of pharmacists and dispensing physicians.	PLRA	Putting People First

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	In 2022, the scope of a pharmacists was amended to allow prescribing for minor ailments.		
November 2022-September 2023	PLRA has launched an online licence and registration system for 22 professions. The final phase of the project will see physicians, and when regulated - psychologists, added to the system. This project was key to reducing red tape and streamlining processes for applicants and registrants.	PLRA	Putting People First
Spring 2023	Amended three professional licensing statutes (for insurance, consumers protection and security guards) to reduce red tape and align with PLRA's new online licensing system. The amendments will come into effect when regulation amendments are complete.	PLRA	Red Tape Reduction
Fall 2023	Changes to the Registered Nurses Profession Act was tabled and approved in the 2023 Fall legislative session. This paves the way to amend the Regulation to allow internationally trained nurses to work in the Yukon and overall makes registration for nurses and nurse practitioners simpler and more effective. Amendments are expected to be finalized by Spring 2024.	PLRA	
Winter 2024	Regulation of psychologists is well underway, and a technical review was completed in 2023 with anticipated implementation in summer 2024.	PLRA	Mandate

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CS Accomplishments

Community Services

Community Development

CO - Community Development, **LD** - Land Development, **ID** - Infrastructure Development, **CA** - Community Affairs, **SR** - Sport and Recreation

Date	Accomplishment	Branch	Priority
2020-2021	The Yukon Government and Canada jointly provided \$4.35 (Million) in funding to Yukon municipalities to support COVID-19 related operating and maintenance costs incurred in the 2020-21 fiscal year. Of the \$4.35 million in funding, 500K was specifically allocated to support public transit.	CA	Federal Priority - Commitment by First Ministers (Government of Canada Safe Restart Agreement).
2020-23 ongoing	Began modernizing the Yukon's waste management system, starting with introduction of tipping fees and regionalization of landfills.	CO	Ministerial Mandate - Streicker
Sept 2022	Completed the Faro public works and firehall building. The facility is designed to meet the Towns of Faro's unique needs and will house emergency and community services. The new building is also designed to exceed minimum energy efficiency standards by 25 per cent.	ID	
Fall 2022	Amendment to Municipal Act – Change terms of office for municipal councils and local advisory councils from three to four years.	CA	AYC Resolution
August 2023	Completed new Carmacks fire hall	ID	
Summer 2023	Launched the online flood atlas in 2023 that improves the efficiency and speed of sharing flood information with the public.	Joint CS ENVI project	

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CS Accomplishments

Community Services

Feb 2023	All 8 municipalities signed agreements that allowed residents to access the Better Buildings program.	CA	Government Priority and Our Clean Future
January 2023	The new municipal services building in Watson Lake opened this past winter, housing the town's fire hall, public works department and training facility.	ID	
2023	Implemented organics composting programs at Carcross, Deep Creek, Marsh Lake, Tagish and Mount Lorne (Mount Lorne pilot project begun in 2021) waste management facilities.	CO	Our Clean Future
2023	Delivered 807 lots in Whitehorse and rural communities since 2016 for residential, commercial, and industrial development.	LD	Mandate
2023	We are supporting the Arctic Winter Games International Committee request to be the host jurisdiction for the 2026 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse. We applaud the City of Whitehorse for stepping forward as the host city and we have offered 4.35 million dollars in support and in-kind contributions.	SR	
March 2023	Construction on the new arena in Carmacks is now complete. The new building includes a full indoor arena and community space to accommodate year-round multifunctional use, including hockey and skating, curling, concerts, trade shows and community events.	ID	
Sept 2022	Completed the Faro public works and firehall building. The facility is designed to meet the Towns of Faro's unique needs and will house emergency and community services. The new	ID	

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Community Services

	building is also designed to exceed minimum energy efficiency standards by 25 per cent.		
2023	Completed the Selkirk Storm Water replacement project. The project has already increased stormwater system capacity, lowering flood risk and protecting the groundwater aquifer from surface contamination		
2023	Extensive upgrades completed to the Mayo and LSCFN community water treatment plants- updates ensure communities have access to safe water supply.		
2023	Construction began in late 2023 on the new gymnastics and climbing facility and we look forward to completion in 2025. The 3,000 square metre facility is large enough o host competitive and recreational sporting events.	ID	
2023	Completed construction of the new Pool in Pelly Crossing, along with supporting physical and mental health the pool helps bring people together and encourages socialization for community members of all ages.	ID	
2023/2024	The land development branch continues to advance projects in partnership with First Nations and Municipalities. We are excited to partner with Kwanlin Dün on the upcoming Range Point subdivision in Whitehorse, which will provide over 300 housing units on both KDFN and Yukon government land.	LD	
2023/2024	Sent Yukon athletes to compete in the 2023 Arctic Winter Games, 2023 Canada Winter Games, 2023 North American Indigenous Games, 2024 Youth Olympics, and our athletes are currently competing in the AWG in Alaska.	SR	

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Community Services

2024	We completed the beautiful White River Community Centre and Potlach house to meet priorities established in the WRFNs comprehensive community development plan.	ID	
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Protective Services

EMO - Emergency Measures Organization, **FMO** - Fire Marshals Office (Fire & Life Safety),
WFM - Wildland Fire Management

Date	Accomplishment	Branch	Priority
2021	Completed an independent review of the fire services in November 2021 and started implementing key recommendations.	FMO	Mandate
2022	Community Wildfire Protection Plans signed in Haines Junction, Teslin	WFM	Our Clean Futures (item C9)
2022-23	Significant progress on Whitehorse South Fuel Break, with 78,000 aspen seedlings planted in 2022 in areas of Whitehorse that had been treated for wildfire risk, and 90,000 planned to be planted in 2023 in Whitehorse and Haines Junction	WFM	-Our Clean Future (Phase 2 – To be confirmed) -2 billion Trees Contribution Agreement – Yukon

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CS Accomplishments

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			Wildfire Resiliency Aspen Plant
2023	Wildland Fire Management (WFM) is providing \$400 to \$600K annually to Yukon First Nations governments specifically for community driven FireSmart projects, and supports the implementation of those projects. Funded by Indigenous Services Canada.	WFM	Mandate
2023	Wildland Fire Management (WFM) signed 14 agreements with Yukon First Nations for wildfire Initial Attack Services for 2023 to 2025.	WFM	Mandate
2023	Wildland Fire Management (WFM) Initial Attack service agreements with Yukon First Nation governments now provides an additional \$1.4M per year for increased crew wages, benefits, overtime pay, vehicles, fuel rates, and an extra ten days of work per season.	WFM	Mandate
2023	Wildland Fire Management (WFM) initial attack service agreements with Yukon First Nation governments now offers the opportunity to hire a fourth crew member, to support mentorship and training opportunities.	WFM	Mandate
2023	WFM issued 7 contracts to Yukon First Nations Wildfire (YFNW) including Unit Crew guaranteed work, vegetation management, tree planting and 4 Unit Crew service call ups for wildfire, in addition to 9 initial attack contracts to YFNW (delegate to YFNW on behalf of Yukon First Nation governments).	WFM	Mandate
2023	Wildland Fire Management (WFM) provided two annual transfer payment agreements to Yukon First	WFM	Mandate

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CS Accomplishments

Community Services

	Nation Wildfire for training: one for the Unit Crew capacity and development activities and one for their Beat the Heat training program totaling \$175K per year.		
2023	Launched the online Wildfire Hub to improve public access to information about wildfires and local wildfire impacts.	WFM	Mandate
2023	Successfully responded to floods and wildfires in partnership with other departments and all levels of government.	WFM	Mandate
Winter 2024	In 2023, volunteer firefighters responded to approximately 183 calls across the territory and logged more than 4,000 hours of training and incident response time. Collectively, the Yukon Fire Service (which includes incorporated and unincorporated communities) responded to over 1,047 calls.	FMO	

Approved by:

February 21, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Climate Change Resilience and the National Building Code of Canada

Community Services

Recommended response:

- The safety of Yukoners and the health of our environment is a priority. Effective April 1, 2023, Yukon adopted the 2020 National Building Code, which ensures that the buildings that we live, work, and play in are safe and energy efficient.
- Keeping up with modern standards of construction will bring many benefits to Yukoners, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving safety, and mitigating the cost of power.
- As with all changes to the National Building Code, the Building and Safety Standards Branch continues to assess how best to incorporate the changes within the context of our northern climate and our goals under the Our Clean Future Strategy.

Context:

- The 2020 National Building Code was published in March 2022, and enforcement in Yukon began on April 1, 2023.
- In the spring of 2019, it was announced that changes were coming to the 2020 National Building Code of Canada to address climate change issues and make housing structures more resilient.

Background:

- In 2019, the Government of Canada announced it will spend an additional \$40 million over five years to integrate climate resilience into building codes and design guides.
- The 2020 National Building Code includes energy efficiency tiers, which provides incremental increases in energy efficiency. Our Clean Future commits the Government of Yukon to enforce the energy efficiency tier of net zero ready by 2032.

Climate Change Resilience and the National Building Code of Canada

Community Services

- Net zero means a home produces the same amount of energy as it consumes, and a net zero ready home is one that is designed to be ultra-efficient, with the goal of being net zero at some point in the future.
- As per the Building Standards Act, Yukon automatically adopts the National Building Code when it is published. The changes to the National Building Code are of interest to the construction industry and the homeowners.
- The National Building Code is not retroactive—existing buildings are not currently required to upgrade to new codes unless major renovation occurs. Pursuing options for existing buildings will require both incentives and enforcement.
- The City of Whitehorse sets some higher energy-efficiency requirements for new buildings than the Yukon. Nevertheless, any changes the Yukon proposes to make for existing commercial and residential buildings will affect the City of Whitehorse Lands and Building Services Department's resources and code enforcement.
- In 2016, the Yukon government made amendments to the Regulation exempting the following from section 9.36 of the National Building Code:
 - Set a minimum eight inches' thickness for squared logs and ten inches' minimum diameter for round logs in exterior walls of log homes.
 - Reduce minimum insulation requirement in ceilings from R60 to R40.
 - Remove minimum insulation requirement of floors in heated crawl space.
 - Exempt residences 480 square feet or less from section 9.36 requirements.
- In December 2012, an 'energy efficiency' section, not in previous codes, was added to the National Building Code. This section requires new construction to have:
 - Minimum insulation requirements for, below the floor/slab or in floors, walls and ceilings.
 - Minimum U-values for all doors and windows.

Climate Change Resilience and the National Building Code of Canada

Community Services

- Minimum performance ratings of all furnaces and water heaters.
- Woodstoves must be Environment Protection Agency (EPA) approved (city bylaw requires this).
- Building plans must pass an energy audit; to reduce the burden of this requirement, several Yukon government agencies worked together to create preapprovals of most common building methods used in Yukon.

Financial Implications:

- No associated financial implications until such time that the standards are adopted into the National Building Code.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

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Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Exploration and mining activities within community boundaries are subject to mineral development and environmental laws, official community plans, local area plans and zoning regulations.
- New mineral staking is prohibited within the City of Dawson and most of the City of Whitehorse. There are, however, existing mineral claims in these municipalities.
- Often claims were staked decades ago and predate nearby homes or staking prohibitions. In the Yukon, claims may be renewed yearly provided the claim holder complies with renewal requirements. This is the case with the claims at Cowley Creek. (See BN #2)

Additional response:

- We work with municipal governments, Yukon First Nations and affected communities to help resolve land use conflicts when they occur.
- We are developing information materials to help municipalities better understand what is available for managing exploration and mining in planned and zoned communities.
- Part of the work to develop successor resource legislation is to address issues of mining in planned and zoned communities through legislative change. (See BN #5)

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Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Communities have expressed concern over the conflicts in mineral development within community boundaries.
 - There may be questions about the Gladiator Metals Ltd. activity areas near Cowley Creek. (See BN #2)
 - There is currently a lawsuit that has been brought against the City of Dawson and the Government of Yukon by a placer claim holder, alleging a regulatory taking of their placer claims within the City of Dawson.
-

Background:

- In 2020 and 2022, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources led a targeted stakeholder engagement process to better understand perceived issues with mineral staking and development within the boundaries of Yukon municipalities and communities.
 - Limited responses were received and so no What We Heard was published, however, the feedback received helped shape the information materials that will be provided to municipalities around existing tools to manage mining within their boundaries.
 - Although there are pre-existing placer claims within some municipalities, the *Placer Mining Act* does not allow new placer claims within any of the Yukon's eight incorporated municipalities, including Dawson City and the City of Whitehorse.
 - In summer 2022, the Government of Yukon extended a prohibition of entry order for the City of Whitehorse until July 2027, restricting quartz mineral staking within most areas. We made this decision at the request of the City of Whitehorse and in alignment with the City's Official Community Plan (Whitehorse 2040).
 - In December 2023, the Government of Yukon renewed the prohibition of entry order within the City of Dawson's municipal limits. We made this decision in partnership with the City of Dawson and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in government.
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Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The City of Dawson has several active mining operations that may conflict with community development interests. The municipality is doing its best to navigate these operations and the Government of Yukon is providing support as required.
- Gladiator Metals applied to do exploration work near the historical Arctic Chief mine within City of Whitehorse limits. The Government of Yukon has issued a Class 1 authorization for this work and the City of Whitehorse has issued a development permit. (See BN #2).
- The company's earlier exploration work in the Cowley Creek area attracted complaints and media attention. As a result of an investigation, the company was fined over \$43,000 in August 2023 for violating conditions of a Class 1 operation.

Approved by:_____
Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Since receiving the Association of Yukon Communities report in 2023, the Association of Yukon Communities and the Yukon government have transitioned from a review process to begin negotiations.
- A new working group has been formed with representatives of both organizations. The members met in November 2023 and have additional meetings planned in early 2024.
- The due diligence work will help to inform all parties in negotiations about funding formulas, work that we expect will carry on through 2024 with the aim to inform future decisions on the municipal grant for 2025 and beyond.

Additional response:

- The department has engaged an accounting firm to help inform our collective understanding of the state of municipal financial positions and operations.
- This work is necessary to understand the appropriate balance of Yukon government funding and municipal own-source revenue necessary to ensure municipal governments are set up for the long-term to continue to deliver and maintain the vital suite of programs and services offered to their citizens, including water, wastewater, solid waste, snow clearing and road maintenance, transit, land planning and development, recreation and more.
- In the meantime, thanks to the escalators built into the existing Comprehensive Municipal Grant formula, the high inflation seen in 2022 (6.8%) will be realized in the grant payments to be provided in 2024. This will result in a \$2.3 million increase for Yukon municipalities with overall contributions of over \$24.5 million for fiscal year 2024/25.

Context:

- Renegotiation of the Comprehensive Municipal Grant is a priority for municipal governments and the Association of Yukon Communities.

Background:

- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant (CMG) provides unconditional block funding each year that supports municipal delivery of core services, together with municipal property taxes and other revenues.

- This annual funding was created in 1991 and remade in 2012 with a set of guiding principles and a prescribed formula to calculate the grants each year.
- The formula considers a base amount per municipality; and factors in the population, number of homes, the infrastructure assets that provide services and the municipalities' own revenue generation capacity.
- The CMG was last reviewed in 2017-18 and resulted in changes to factors within the grant formula including the establishment of a funding floor at the 2017 funding levels from 2017-2022. These changes led to increased grant payments to municipalities for the 2018 to 2023 grant years and it is expected that the grant will continue to increase in 2024 and beyond.
- In 2019, YG agreed to further review the CMG with the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC). A working group was formed and met many times, though the review was extended given priorities through pandemic response over the period of approximately 2020 to 2022. During that period, municipalities were also provided with \$3.85 million in “Municipal Safe Re-start” funding.
- The working group concluded its work in July 2023 with AYC submitting a report to Yukon government for consideration. This report was commissioned by AYC with financial contribution by Yukon.
- In fall 2023, AYC assigned three representatives to work with Yukon officials to implement changes to the Grant funding. The work includes additional due diligence, clarifying how much investment is required to ensure long-term financial sustainability, and to negotiate potential changes to the Grant in time for the 2025 fiscal year.
- The Director of Community Affairs provides regular updates to the AYC Executive Director on the process and has set regular meetings with the CMG review group to update them on progress.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# CA-02

Spring 2024

Comprehensive Municipal Grant

Community Services

Financial Implications:

- The formula includes lagging indicators that will result in increases to catch up to inflation. The grant is projected to grow from \$22.241 million in 2023 to \$24.556 million in 2024.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Department

January 31, 2024
[Date approved]

Recommended response:

- The resolutions made by the Association of Yukon Communities at annual general meetings are welcomed as it informs Yukon government to focus our efforts and prioritize matters of mutual interest.
 - Officials with the department are actively working on a number of the resolutions from 2023 and we look forward to receiving the new priorities in 2024.
 - We are making progress on municipal priorities, including negotiations on the Comprehensive Municipal Grant; work to advance a disaster assistance arrangement for Yukon; research into best practices that will inform future decisions related to the Municipal Act, and more. I thank the teams at Association of Yukon Communities, municipalities, and the Yukon government for your work.
-

Context:

- The Association of Yukon Communities put forward several resolutions at its last Annual General Meeting (AGM). The next AGM will occur in Dawson City in May 2024 and there may be interest in progress on the 2023 resolutions as resolutions for the 2024 AGM are proposed.
-

Background:

- Eight (8) resolutions were voted on and passed unanimously at the Annual General meeting of the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) in May 2023
 - Resolutions passed include:
 - Resolution 23-AT-01: Municipal Act Review
 - Community Services is leading the response.
-

- YG has responded by requesting AYC to share specific information and context on the issues municipalities would like addressed in the Municipal Act. This will be informed through ongoing dialogue between YG officials, CAOs and the Executive Director AYC.
- In response to the two resolutions suggesting amendments to the Municipal Act, Community Services has partnered with national counterparts to undertake cross-jurisdictional scans. The aim is to identify best practices and policy areas that have led to legislative changes. The findings from this research have been communicated to the Association and discussions about the next steps for both resolutions are in progress.
- Resolution 23-AT-02: Allowing Permanent Residents to Vote
 - Community Services is leading the response.
 - YG has responded that research is underway to understand the Canadian legal context of permanent voter eligibility.
 - YG has received a jurisdictional scan from national colleagues who have considered allowing permanent residents to vote.
 - YG and AYC have discussed the timing of this resolution and will consider it further along with the review of the *Municipal Act*.
- Resolution 23-AT-03: Increase of Canada Community Building Fund
 - The Federal government is leading the response.
 - The federal response indicated that work to renew the administrative agreements is underway and encourages continued collaboration with the Department of Community Services.
 - YG has received the draft CCBF agreement from the federal government and will be engaging with recipients on the agreement in early 2024. A CCBF workshop was held in November at the inaugural Sustainable Communities Forum, and Community Services has continued a regular conversation with all ultimate recipients (Municipalities and First Nations) during virtual information sessions

throughout early 2024. The Minister of CS has advocated for the AYC position on the CCBF to Canada.

- Resolution 23-AT-04: Disaster Financial Assistance Program
 - Community Services is leading the response.
 - The Association has advocated for a disaster financial assistance program to support communities. This government is currently formulating this policy guided by the *Our Clean Future* Strategy. Yukon has shared progress with the Association and will work collaboratively to ensure the policy aligns with municipal requirements.
- Resolution 23-AT-05: Meaningful Consultation with Municipalities
 - Community Services is leading the response.
 - Response has emphasized the importance of respectful collaboration for the benefit of all Yukoners.
- Resolution 23-AT-06: EMS Service
 - Health & Social Services is leading the response.
 - The HSS response indicated that the Director of EMS is working with the City of Dawson to address areas of concern, provides information about contingency plans when coverage is unavailable, and suggests that municipalities continue conversations with the Director of EMS.
 - On January 31, 2024, HSS announced an increase in honoraria for Emergency Medical Services.
- Resolution 23-AT-07: Sustainable and Long-term Funding for the Humane Society.
 - Environment is leading the response.
 - Response indicated that YG provided bridge funding to sustain both Humane Societies (Dawson and Whitehorse), committing to work with both societies to determine their priorities and needs, and committing to equitable funding agreements.
- Resolution 23-AT-08: Peripheral Tax Rate.
 - YG responded indicating that a review is planned. (reference PAT-03)

Session Briefing Note

TAB# CA-03

Spring 2024

AYC Resolutions and Status

Community Services

Approved by:

February 21, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Community Services supports municipalities in many respects, including the advancement of key infrastructure projects, land development within municipal boundaries, wildland fire management, and emergency management. We also make our Community Advisors available to support all matters of local governance and effective decision making.
- This support and close collaboration ensure that our government policies and programs are tailored to support staff and leadership in Yukon's municipalities and encourages community-led initiatives and solutions.
- It's a priority for me to meet with my municipal colleagues as often as possible. These meetings occur both formally and informally. These meetings are invaluable and help me better understand local needs and to work to find solutions within each unique municipal context. In 2023, I met with members from all five local advisory councils, and all eight municipalities.
- I also enjoyed attending the Association of Yukon Communities' Annual General Meeting last May along with many Yukon government officials, the entire Community Affairs branch, and many of my Cabinet colleagues.

Context:

- There may be interest in how the Government of Yukon engages with municipalities on their priorities.

Background:

- A resolution by the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) was passed during their May 2023 Annual General Meeting.
- The resolution entitled “Yukon government to Undertake Meaningful Consultation with Municipalities,” was sent to Premier Pillai and resolved for the “Yukon government to ensure meaningful and respectful consultation and advance notification on territorial decisions that may impact municipalities.”
- Minister Mostyn’s response indicated his commitment to “fostering a respectful, inclusive, collaborative working relationship with Yukon municipalities and the Association of Yukon Communities.” It further stated that the government “will continue to ensure that communications with municipalities are timely and respectful of the role local governments provide Yukoners.”
- A few examples of how the Yukon government engages with municipalities and AYC:
 - The department launched Community Development Tours - which focus on bringing department leaders, experts, and project managers that municipalities work with daily, out to municipalities engage directly on initiatives and to receive feedback on how to better accomplish shared goals. These tours began in 2023 and are continuing into 2024.
 - Community Advisors regularly meet with CAOs and attend council meetings, which allows for continuous engagement with community leadership.
 - Additionally, Community Affairs hosts an annual Local Advisory Council Forum, bringing together representatives from the five local advisory councils to discuss their shared priorities.
 - The department hosts regular lunch and learn sessions with community officials on topics of importance to the group, be it recycling, solid waste, or any other matter that may support sustainable local services and effective decision making.

- The department organized and hosted the inaugural Sustainable Communities Forum that brings administrative officials from Yukon municipalities and First Nations together for a two-day period focused on infrastructure development, emergency management, and matters of importance to local governance.
- The Director of Community Affairs maintains a consistent and close working relationship with the AYC, engaging in weekly meetings with the Executive Director, and attends AYC Executive Meetings and Chief Administrative Officer forums to provide updates on behalf of Yukon Government, ensuring effective coordination and alignment of objectives between the AYC and the department.
- The department provided funding for the Chief and Mayor's forum where strategies to discuss collective community needs and concerns were discussed.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Community Services works with the City of Whitehorse on many shared priorities, including transit.
- In 2023, a Transit Working Group was established to determine how to achieve the 2023 CASA commitment related to free public transit in the City of Whitehorse.
- The Yukon government has offered \$1.5 million to the City of Whitehorse to be used to replace fare-generated revenue and make public transit free.
- This funding will be made available should the parties agree on whether and how to proceed with the CASA commitment related to free public transit in the City of Whitehorse.

Context:

- The City of Whitehorse released the results of their public transit survey in March 2024.
- The 2023 CASA includes a commitment to provide funding to the City of Whitehorse to replace fare-generated revenue and make public transit free in Whitehorse. A working group comprised of one Yukon NDP MLA and one Yukon Liberal MLA has been established to work jointly with the City of Whitehorse to meet this commitment.

Background:

- On November 27, 2023, the City of Whitehorse passed a motion directing the mayor to write a letter to the Minister of Community Services and the NDP Caucus. In this letter, the mayor formally requested that the \$1.5 million for free transit be made immediately available as part of a three-year commitment

Session Briefing Note

TAB# CA-05

Spring 2024

Free Transit in Whitehorse

Community Services

including 2023, 2024, 2025, in the form of transit passes distributed by the Government of Yukon in part to meet the commitment of the MMIWG2S+ strategy by providing free transit passes to NGOs, vulnerable groups, and others.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Solid Waste Systems Improvements

Community Services

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is working toward a sustainable model for solid waste management in the Yukon. We are investing in waste management facilities that reflect modern and sustainable practices that benefit the environment and the economy.
- Interim agreements have been signed with Carmacks, Dawson, Mayo, Teslin, and Watson Lake to operate as regional centres.
- The agreements ensure that all public waste management facilities have gates, operating hours, tipping fees, and on-site staff to monitor and manage waste streams. This will reduce environmental risk and help to extend the life of landfills, and costs associated with liabilities.
- We thank the Association of Yukon Communities for their assistance and leadership in developing the regional agreements and for their support as we continue to implement the recommendations from the 2018 report: Recommendations for Action towards a Sustainable Solid Waste Management System for Yukon.

Additional response:

- As we continue implementation of these recommendations, we remain committed to working with affected communities to find local solutions for managing solid waste.

Context:

- Solid waste system improvements have been ongoing for several years.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# CO-01

Spring 2024

Solid Waste Systems Improvements

Community Services

Background:

- A Ministerial Committee made recommendations for actions related to solid waste management in Yukon in April 2018. The Committee was co-chaired by the Association of Yukon Communities and the Government of Yukon. Membership included Municipal representatives and Government of Yukon staff. They produced a report on their recommendations that was provided to the Minister of Community Services at that time.
- The recommendations involved regionalization of landfills, a user-pay model that involves standardized tipping fees, and transfer station facility closures the recommendations are being implemented in three phases:
- Ten-year Waste Management Plans were submitted by all municipalities and have been reviewed by YESAB offices. This is a key milestone to allow municipal (ie: Regional) waste permits to be renewed and leases to be drafted.
- Illegal dumping did not increase as result of tipping fees introduced in the Southern Lakes / Deep Creek area. Fines for illegal dumping were increased to improve enforcement mechanisms if needed.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Extended Producer Responsibility
Implementation**

Environment

Recommended response:

- In January of this year, the Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation came into force, marking an important milestone on the Yukon's journey to a stable and successful waste diversion system.
- While every province in Canada has established an Extended Producer Responsibility program, the Yukon is the first of the northern territories to adopt Extended Producer Responsibility.
- Extended Producer Responsibility will provide a long-lasting solution to the underlying structural issues facing the Yukon's recycling system and will reduce the cost of recycling to the Yukon taxpayers and municipalities.
- The Yukon government will be working with partners to fully establish the Extended Producer Responsibility framework in the Yukon by 2025.

Additional response:

- Over the next two years we will work with national producers, local businesses, municipalities, and industry representatives to establish the details of an Extended Producer Responsibility framework and implement the programs.
- The first step in the implementation will be a producer-led stakeholder consultation to inform the development of stewardship plans. These plans will be reviewed and approved by Government of Yukon setting the path forward for the producer-led waste diversion programs. These programs will be operating as early as fall of 2025.
- The stewardship plan review and approval stage will allow our government to ensure that the final plans align with service level expectations, recovery targets and our waste diversion objectives.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation

Environment

- To ensure concerned Yukon businesses and recycling stakeholders have the certainty they need, the Government of Yukon has maintained an ongoing dialogue to address concerns and inform the development and implementation of the framework, we are currently in active conversations with producers, producer responsibility organizations, and other stakeholders (see **Appendix A**).
- We are committed to continuing this dialogue throughout the implementation of an Extended Producer Responsibility framework in the Yukon.

Third response:

- The Government of Yukon acknowledges the importance of recycling to Yukoners and is working to ensure that Yukoners can continue to do their part to reduce waste and protect the environment.
- We are aware that Raven ReCentre announced on April 10th that they will not be accepting, processing or shipping most non-refundable recyclables including paper and packaging as of September 15 this year.
- The Government of Yukon is committed to continuing to work with the City of Whitehorse and community partners to find solutions and ensure Yukoners have an option to recycle in Whitehorse.
- On April 4, Department of Environment officials met with Circular Materials to discuss how we could further support the City of Whitehorse with recycling.
- On April 9th, senior officials from the Departments of Environment, Community Services and Circular Materials met with City of Whitehorse to discuss options to integrate a possible short-term curbside collection program into an ongoing producer-led program.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation

Environment

- During these discussions, the Government of Yukon provided assurance that the design of a collection program, in collaboration with Circular Materials, would be supported by the Department of Environment to ensure that it meets requirements in the Stewardship Plan review.
- On April 11, a letter was sent to the Mayor reiterating our support for the City of Whitehorse as we move forward with Extended Producer Responsibility implementation.
- During a Council meeting on April 15, we understand Council members were briefed by City officials on the options to maintain recycling services and support the transition to an industry managed Extended Producer Responsibility system.
- On April 22, the Council unanimously passed a motion that:
 - the administration participate in stakeholder consultations with the Producer Responsibility Organization and bring forward a recommendation on the City's next steps with respect to a curbside collection program in June of 2024; and
 - that administration bring forward a budget amendment in May 2024 to establish a temporary fee for service depot for paper and packaging products.
- The Government of Yukon will continue to work with partners to find an interim solution to recycling in Whitehorse while continuing to work towards a producer-led program.
- Over the next two years, the Government of Yukon will transition responsibility for managing non-refundable recyclables as well as a range of hazardous and special products to the producers of those materials.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Extended Producer Responsibility Implementation

Environment

- Once implemented, large producers and manufacturers of residential packaging and household hazardous waste will be tasked with funding and managing the collection, handling and recovery of those materials.
- While the specific details of the Yukon's new waste management approach will be determined during the stewardship plan development period, Yukoners can expect the same or better access to waste collection and recovery services as they do now.
- As the Department of Community Services works towards regionalization of waste service delivery across the Yukon, we know that some community transfer stations may be closed.
- We recognize that the producer organizations will take the evolving waste services into account when designing their services.
- It makes sense to align waste and waste diversion or recycling services where possible to ensure an overall efficient system.
- It will be up to the producers to propose service levels that align with existing services and to take into consideration any changes that are planned to happen during the transition period between now and fall of 2025.
- This is why it is important for the local governments and communities to participate in the producer-led engagement that will take place over the coming months.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon public and Yukon businesses may have questions about how the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility framework will impact the Yukon's waste management system and Yukon businesses.

Background:

Prepared for Minister Clarke
Department of Environment

Date prepared: January 25, 2024
Last Updated: April 24, 2024

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Extended Producer Responsibility
Implementation**

Environment

- From January to May 2022, the Department of Environment worked with Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Committee to collect preliminary input on Extended Producer Responsibility. Public engagement on Extended Producer Responsibility was held from November 1, 2022, to February 17, 2023.
- In the fall, the amendments to the *Environment Act* were passed allowing Yukon to place Extended Producer Responsibility obligations on national brands rather than Yukon municipalities and taxpayers.
- Department of Community Services is planning to close several rural transfer stations over the next several years at Johnson's Crossing, Silver City, Braeburn and Stewart Crossing.

Approved by:

April 26, 2024

Deputy Minister of Environment_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Extended Producer Responsibility
Implementation

Environment

Appendix A:

Summary of public engagement on Extended Producer Responsibility
post release of the What We Heard (June 26, 2023 – present)

Date and time	Format	Audience	Participation
Apr 26, 2023, 10-10:30am	Microsoft Teams	Food, Health and Consumer Products of Canada (FHCP)	Direct meeting (Whitney Givans, Michelle Saunders)
What We Heard (WWH) Report Published			
Jun 26, 2023, 10:30am-12pm	Microsoft Teams	Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Committee – present What We Heard report and proposed path forward	
Jul 6, 2023, 9am-9:45 am	Microsoft Teams	Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA)	Direct meeting (Simon Kinsman)
Aug 2, 2023, 3pm-4pm	Microsoft Teams	Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Committee – question period for WWH and proposed path forward, follow up on Jun 26 th meeting.	Yukon Liquor Corporation, Community Services, City of Whitehorse, Association of Yukon Communities
Sep 7, 2023, 1:30pm	Phone	McDonalds Whitehorse	Direct conversation (Mike Thorpe)
Sep 7, 2023, 1:45pm	Phone	Tim Hortons Whitehorse	Direct conversation (Doug Terry)
Sep 8, 2023, 10am-11am	Microsoft Teams	Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA)	Direct meeting (Simon Kinsman)
Sep 8, 2023, 11am-12pm	Direct meeting	Product Care	Direct meeting (Mannie Cheung)

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Spring 2024

Extended Producer Responsibility
Implementation

Environment

Date and time	Format	Audience	Participation
Sep 8, 2023, 1:30pm-2:30pm	Microsoft Teams	Interchange Recycling	Direct meeting (Will Burrows)
Sep 11, 2023, 1pm-2pm	Phone	Circular Materials	Direct meeting (Allen Langdon)
Sep 18, 2023, 10am-10:45am	Direct meeting	Call2Recycle	Direct meeting (Jason Brown)
Sep 18, 2023, 2:50pm	Phone	Whitehorse Motors	Direct conversation (Tina Woodland)
Sep 19, 2023, 2pm-2:30pm	Microsoft Teams	Yukon Liquor Corporation	Direct Meeting (Danielle Hubert, Dustin Biero)
Sep 20, 2023, 2pm-3pm	In-person	Raven ReCentre	Direct Meeting (Heather Ashthorn)
Sep 22, 2023, 1pm-2pm	In-person	Whitehorse and Yukon Chambers of Commerce	Direct Meeting (Keara and Luke)
Sep 22, 2023, 3pm-3:45pm	Microsoft Teams	Retail Council of Canada (RCC)	Direct Meeting (Kelsey and Greg)
Sep 26, 2023, 2pm-3pm	Microsoft Teams	Klondike Placer Miners' Association (KPMA) and Yukon Chamber of Mines (YCM)	Direct Meeting (Brianne, Brooke, Lisa)
Nov 17, 2023, 2pm-3pm	Microsoft Teams	Yukon Liquor Corporation	Direct Meeting (Dustin Biero, Sarah Waters)
Dec 5, 2023, 2pm-2:30pm	Microsoft Teams	Circular Materials	Direct meeting (Jon Inrig)
Dec 19, 2023	Phone	MacDonalds Whitehorse	Phone chat (Mike Thorpe)
Jan 12, 2024, 10am-10:30am	Microsoft Teams	Canadian Battery Association	Direct meeting (Colin McKean)
Jan 19, 2024, 1:30pm-2:30pm	In-person	City of Whitehorse, Community Services	Meeting (Tracy Allen, Ira Webb, Craig Van Lankveld, Dave Albisser)

Session Briefing Note

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Extended Producer Responsibility
Implementation

Environment

Date and time	Format	Audience	Participation
Regulation Passed on January 25, 2024			
Feb 6, 2024, 9:30am-11am	Microsoft Teams	Extended Producer Responsibility Advisory Committee	
Feb 8, 2024, 3pm-4pm	Microsoft Teams	Circular Materials	Direct Meeting (Jon Inrig, Richard Hodges, Allen Langdon)
Feb 22, 2024	Microsoft Teams	Call2Recycle	Direct Meeting (Jason Brown)
Feb 22, 2024, 3pm-4pm	Microsoft Teams	Circular Materials	Direct Meeting (Jon Inrig, Richard Hodges, Allen Langdon, Bob Nichols)
Feb 27, 2024	Microsoft Teams	Interchange Recycling	Direct Meeting (Will Burrows, David Lawes, Kelly Duran, Birthe Levie)
Feb 28, 2024	Microsoft Teams	ProductCare	Direct Meeting (Mario Ando, Mannie Cheung)
Feb 29, 2024	Microsoft Teams	Info Session Webinar	33 people, mostly stewards
Mar 7, 2024, 3pm-4pm	In-person	Circular Materials	Direct Meeting (Jon Inrig, Richard Hodges)
Mar 8, 2024, all day	In-person, KDCC	Extended Producer Responsibility Day	~40 participants registered
Mar 13, 2024	Microsoft Teams	Info Session Webinar	~45 participants registered
Mar 14, 2024	In-person	City of Whitehorse	Direct Meeting (Tracy Allen)
Mar 15, 2024	In-person	AYC (Municipalities)	Direct Meeting (AYC)

Recommended response:

- Community Operations branch does great work in operating 10 water treatment plants and 8 wastewater treatment lagoons across rural Yukon. The branch also manages drinking water delivery to homes in Old Crow, Carcross and Ross River.
- The team has focused on recruiting local people interested in this work. We have invested in training and capacity building and have partnered with community operators and First Nation partners to ensure sustainable, local, water services.
- This year, the team offered water delivery training targeted at residents of Old Crow and Carcross through Yukon University's Water and Wastewater Operators Program. 12 people completed the training and 4 have received their Bulk Water Delivery Operator certification. We congratulate those who have taken this opportunity, and your communities appreciate your service.

Context:

- There is a high demand for water delivery services, and it has been challenging at times to recruit individuals for this important work.

Background:

- The Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality establish drinking water quality requirements. All Canadian jurisdictions have adopted these guidelines. In the Yukon, all public water supply and distribution systems meet or exceed these guidelines.
- Water delivery services are provided in Old Crow, Carcross and Ross River through Orders in Council passed in 1983-1985, which established water

Session Briefing Note

TAB# CO-03
Spring 2024

Community Water Delivery

Community Services

delivery rates between \$8.88 to \$16.65 per month depending on tank volume. Extra deliveries were set at \$5.00 each. These OICs are still in effect.

- For the most part, these services are contracted to private companies to service their communities. Community Operations branch manages the contracts and builds rosters of trained operators. In Old Crow, Community Operations works closely with Vuntut Gwitchin Government (VGG), which employs the water delivery drivers.
- The collaboration with VGG has been very successful this past year in building capacity within the community to provide water and sewer services. Six participants attended four days of Bulk Water Delivery training at the Old Crow YukonU Alice Frost campus in November 2023. Two additional Old Crow students attended the training at the Whitehorse campus. Engagement was excellent and four participants passed the course exam. The Bulk Water course was offered again January 2024 with four more participants received training. Another offering of this course will take place in spring of 2024.
- The demand in Carcross increased significantly in Summer 2023 as visitation numbers returned after the pandemic. Changes to the delivery contract was made in 2023 to adjust, resulting in improvements.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Mostyn
Community Services

Date prepared: January 23, 2024
Last Updated:
Page 2 of 2

Recycling in the Yukon & Diversion Credits

Community Services

Recommended response:

- I thank the Yukon municipalities and the third-party processors for the work they have done to offer recycling options for their citizens. We partner with municipalities in many ways to help reduce the cost to recycle, from capital projects like recycling depots to the hauling and processing of non-refundable.
- A robust recycling system is so important for the Yukon, for our environment and to reduce the cost to operate and eventually decommission landfills.
- As the territory transitions toward an Extended Producer Responsibility regime we want to set the conditions to see even higher volumes of recyclables being processed in the territory and kept out of our landfills.

Additional response:

- To help bridge the gap between now and the start of a producer led system; the Yukon government has offered to invest \$2.4 million over the next two years for the City of Whitehorse to implement a curbside collection program. This could offset as much as 50% of the cost of the City's program.
- We believe that establishing a municipal curbside collection system within our largest City will be of tremendous environmental and financial benefit to citizens; and this move will help to set the conditions for sustainable waste management well into the future.

Recycling in the Yukon & Diversion Credits

Community Services

- Diversion Credits are invested by municipal and territorial governments to help offset the cost to process non-refundable recycling in Yukon.

Second additional response:

- Support for recycling outside Whitehorse is provided by Yukon government through recycling depot Operating Allowances, as well as a recycling collection program that ships non-refundable recyclable materials to Whitehorse from all around the Yukon. Depot Operating Allowances provided in 2023/24 to municipalities outside Whitehorse are projected at over \$375,000, while the collection of non-refundables for municipalities outside Whitehorse will cost over \$100,000.
- This support is in addition to the investments being made at Regional Landfills projected at \$3.5 to \$4 million over 3 years for weigh scales and other upgrades.
- It is also in addition to the nearly \$2 million budgeted for diversion credits which supports non-refundable recycling in all municipalities. A significant portion of this supports recycling in municipalities outside Whitehorse.

Context:

- Raven Recycling announced the closure of the free public drop off at their facilities by summer 2024, in anticipation of a City of Whitehorse collection system.

Recycling in the Yukon & Diversion Credits

Community Services

Background:

- Processing of non-refundable recycling is currently done by Raven and P&M, where materials such as cardboard, paper, plastic and tin are sorted, baled and shipped to markets out of the Yukon for recycling. Diversion credits support the responsible management and shipment to recycling centers rather than the landfill.
- The cost of diversion credits has increased in recent years, from approximately \$500,000 in 2018, to approximately \$1 million in 2022, and a projected \$1.8 million in 2023.
- The City of Whitehorse provides \$150,000 in diversion credits to Raven Recycling and P&M each year. Dawson and Watson Lake contribute about \$200,000 and \$180,000 respectively each year and other municipalities contribute to local recycling through staff time, direct contributions, or both.
- Extended Producer Responsibility is the preferred system being implemented across Canada where producers and large retailers bear the cost of recycling nonrefundable like cardboard and plastics.
- Some of Yukon's recycling is refundable through legislated fees:
 - The Beverage Container Regulation (BCR) sets the surcharges collected on ready to drink beverages at the time of purchase, and the amount that is returned (refunded) when an item is taken to a licensed recycling depot in the Yukon. The difference between surcharge and refund is deposited into the Recycling Fund.
 - The Designated Materials Regulation (DMR) sets the amount of surcharge collected on tires and electronic waste at time of purchase, where the full amount is deposited into the Recycling Fund in order to help pay for the item to be sent for recycling.
 - In late 2025, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system will replace Diversion Credits for non-refundable recycling. EPR is a waste management policy that shifts the responsibility for end-of-life management of product and packaging waste

Session Briefing Note

TAB# CO-04

Spring 2024

Recycling in the Yukon & Diversion Credits

Community Services

from municipalities, government, and taxpayers to the producers and consumers. EPR regulations have now been adopted by all provinces in Canada. Alberta, the last province to adopt the EPR system, anticipates having program up and running by April 2025.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Community Transfer Stations Consultations

Community Services

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is taking steps to ensure that waste management in the Yukon is sustainable from both a cost and environmental perspective. We are pleased with the progress so far and are pleased to support community-focused solutions for household waste management.
- As committed to under the Confidence and Supply Agreement, we have consulted with Yukoners who may be affected by planned closures of solid waste facilities in Keno, Silver City, Johnson's Crossing and Braeburn, as we transition to a sustainable, regional service model.
- Some great ideas came out of these discussions. A what we heard report will be produced in spring 2024. This will help us to consider options moving forward.
- In the meantime, our team continues to talk with local area residents on details for options that might make sense for each community. Ideas including the provision of bear proof bins, free spring cleanup dumpster days, enhanced recycling options, and more to replace unsupervised transfer stations.

Context:

- The Yukon Government committed under CASA to consult with affected residents on household waste disposal options.

Background:

- The issue first came to light following public review of a YESAA application for landfill license renewal. YESAA applications must include all potential activities

Session Briefing Note

TAB# CO-05
Spring 2024

Community Transfer Stations Consultations

Community Services

contemplated over the 10-year period (2023-2033) including closures and landfilling of household waste. It was not a YESAA application for closures.

- The landfilling of household waste is only contemplated at sites currently landfilling construction and demolition (C&D) waste and only if organics diversion is successful. Once organics are removed, landfilled household waste does not pose a significant risk to the environment.
- The Yukon Government has signed interim regional agreements with our municipal partners in Mayo, Watson Lake, Carmacks and Teslin. Dawson has operated a regional solid waste facility for approximately twenty years. These municipalities will now have access to additional funding to upgrade and staff their facilities and introduce tipping fees for those who use their facilities. We continue to work on agreements with Faro and Haines Junction to address outstanding issues. This is in fulfillment of a commitment with AYC to help municipalities deal with solid waste.
- The YESAB regional offices are also reviewing unincorporated community 10year waste management plans. Comments opposing the closures and landfilling of household waste have been posted on the North Alaska Highway (Beaver Creek, Destruction Bay, Silver City, Canyon Creek, and Champagne) area plans.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Extensive repairs and upgrades of the gasifier in Old Crow were completed this winter. These repairs included replacing the secondary burner, upgrading, and replacing control systems, repairing refractory burn chamber liners, repairing the hydraulic system, sea-can “building” upgrades, and fuel system repairs.
- The unit is now functional, and officials are now preparing to fully commission the unit once site safety and staff training is complete. This training is being planned and we expect the unit to be in full operation by the summer.
- Our Operations team will implement a simplified and updated Operations and Maintenance Plan to ensure all necessary maintenance is carried out on a scheduled basis to minimize future downtime. On-call contracts are being established to ensure safety and operational issues can be addressed in a timely fashion.
- Communications and education materials will also be rolled out in the community to inform about the importance of sorting and segregation of waste, in particular removing dangerous materials to prevent damage to the gasifier system.

Additional response for open burning:

- In Old Crow, construction and demolition waste is landfilled on site, some materials – like metals - are stored for eventual transport out of the community, and household waste is open burned while the gasifier is not operating.
- It is not possible to landfill household waste in the community and so we do rely on the gasifier. During periodic down times, staff work with

the regulator in the event that intermittent burning is required to manage waste in Old Crow. This is generally avoided and only as necessary to manage the remote site.

- The permit for operating the waste facility in Old Crow was updated in 2018 to allow open burning.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions have arisen respecting the gasifier.

Background:

- Waste to Energy Canada (WEC) was awarded a contract for approximately \$1 million in 2011/12 to install a waste gasifier system in Old Crow.
- The system operated from 2012 to 2017 with some success. During that time, several “blowback” events occurred, likely due to explosive material being placed in the household waste that caused the burners to fail and damaged the system.
- The subcontractors involved with WEC in building the Old Crow system were involved in early repairs to the system to keep it operational. The company has since ceased operating and after many attempts at getting assistance from WEC, Community Services has reached out to other contractors directly for assistance.
- The household waste gasifier in Old Crow was severely damaged in 2017 from several small explosions occurred inside the gasifier causing significant damage to the refractory cement lining and controls system.
- In 2021, electrical power and communication lines from the Old Crow distribution networks were run to the gasifier more reliably.
- The primary contractor involved in building the system resides in Washington State and repairs were not possible due to travel restrictions during the COVID pandemic. Officials have since successfully repaired the unit and it will come back on line in 2024.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# CO-06

Spring 2024

Old Crow Gasifier

Community Services

- Vuntut Gwitchin Government supplies an attendant through our Transfer Payment Agreement at a cost of \$80,000 annually. Fuel for the gasifier is estimated at \$300,000 - \$350,000 annually in 2024/25.

Approved by:

March 25, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness

Recommended response:

- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization works with our emergency management partners in municipalities and First Nations to develop emergency management capacity and build emergency resilient Yukon communities.
- We appreciate the efforts of municipal and First Nation governments to plan for emergencies and the leadership of these government in managing the challenges that recent emergency situations have presented.
- Preparing for emergencies includes personal preparedness. We encourage all Yukoners to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for emergency events. Resources are available through Yukon.ca.

Additional response:

- While each municipality and First Nation government may take a slightly different approach, the Yukon government is committed to support and collaborate in community emergency planning.

Context:

- Territorial flooding in recent years along with wildfire evacuations in summer 2023 have raised public interest in Yukon's emergency preparedness.

Background:

- The Yukon Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) coordinates Yukon government departments and agencies involved in emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness

Community Services

- EMO facilitates emergency management capacity development, training and exercises for all Yukon communities, including municipalities and First Nations. This ensures a coordinated response to emergencies.
- EMO is providing emergency management training internally to expand the capacity of Yukon government employees through a variety of online courses and tabletop exercises. There are 5 tabletop exercises in the Emergency Coordination Centre between January-April 2024 for Yukon government employees, which will be coordinated with tabletop exercises being provided in communities, and with external response partners.
- EMO has reestablished the City of Whitehorse Emergency Management Working Group. This includes first responders, critical infrastructure providers, and local governments such as Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation.
- Like last year, the Government of Yukon will again preposition sandbags, superbags and flood mitigation products through the territory to be ready for potential flooding. This planning in 2023 allowed Yukon government, in coordination with our First Nation and municipal government partners, to respond more efficiently to flooding within communities.
- In spring 2023, flooding occurred in the Klondike valley and the City of Dawson. The response was a coordinated effort between all levels of governments including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Yukon government and the City of Dawson. All governments worked together and established an Incident Management Team to coordinate the response efforts.
- Throughout the summer of 2023, two communities were evacuated, and several were under evacuation alert from wildfire threats. EMO opened the Emergency Coordination Centre several times to coordinate and support emergency response efforts.
- In alignment with Our Clean Futures strategy, EMO is working with communities to support the update of emergency coordination plans and support with carrying out Hazard Risk Assessments.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# EMO-01

Spring 2024

Community Emergency Planning and Preparedness

Community Services

- The Critical Infrastructure Team serves as Yukon government's response to possible shortages of critical infrastructure goods and services. This team works with our private industry partners to identify and mitigate risks to critical infrastructure in the Yukon.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Civil Emergency Measures Act and Public Health and Safety Act Review

Community Services

Recommended response:

- The Emergency Measures Organization and Health and Social Services department are currently reviewing of the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and *Public Health and Safety Act* to identify challenges in existing legislation and options for further action regarding pandemic/epidemic management.
- Targeted engagement with Yukon First Nations, municipalities and Transboundary Indigenous groups is planned to launch this spring. Engagement feedback will help identify existing barriers to effective, collaborative emergency response and possible legislative (or non-legislative) solutions.
- The review will ensure that Yukon's legislation allows us to respond to public health emergencies by providing the legislative framework for an efficient and effective approach to emergency management.

Further Response – specifically about project scope:

- This review is focused on identifying challenges in the *Civil Emergency Measure Act* and the *Public Health and Safety Act* as they relate to pandemic/epidemic management.
- Although the scope of this work is specifically focused on pandemic/epidemic management, the review may touch on broader aspects, such as other emergency responses or the role of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- These broader aspects would be considered for possible future legislative review work.

Civil Emergency Measures Act and Public Health and Safety Act Review

Community Services

Context:

- Yukon has committed to initiate a review the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* (CEMA) and *Public Health & Safety Act*.
-

Background:

- Concurrent to the state of emergency in response to the COVID-19, a state of emergency for flooding in 2021 was also declared. These events brought public attention to the challenges to the existing *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and *Public Health and Safety Act*.
- The review will:
 - Reflect on the experience gained through the management of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Yukon and other Canadian jurisdictions.
 - Where warranted, consider the alignment of the Acts with similar legislation in other Canadian jurisdictions.
 - Consider emerging issues and best practices in pandemic/epidemic legislation in Canada and internationally.
 - Clarify the legislated and non-legislated roles and authorities of territorial, First Nations, and municipal governments in a pandemic or epidemic.
- Review milestones:
 - March/April 2024: launch of intergovernmental engagement
 - October/November 2024: review of engagement summary and recommendations on potential legislative amendments and/or other policy actions

Session Briefing Note

TAB# EMO-02

Spring 2024

Civil Emergency Measures Act and Public Health and Safety Act Review

Community Services

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Emergency management is a shared responsibility in the Yukon, and the Emergency Measures Organization is working with First Nations and local governments to support their emergency planning and preparedness.
- The Emergency Measures Organization is helping to complete a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment with each community. This work provides a roadmap to respond to emergencies and ensures strong communication between Yukon government and communities.
- Since the fall 2023, the emergency management planners have met with First Nation governments along with municipal government officials to coordinate emergency planning work and support training.

Additional response:

- We appreciate the efforts of municipal and First Nation governments to plan for emergencies, and the leadership of these governments in managing the challenges that recent emergency situations have presented.

Context:

- There is interest in Yukon government's work to support communities with emergency planning.

Background:

- Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) is responsible for a few Our Clean Future action items, including:
 - Complete hazard identification and risk assessments (HIRAs) for all Yukon communities by 2022 that include climate change risks (C11).

Community Emergency Planning Community Services

- Work with First Nations and municipalities to complete emergency management (EM) plans for all Yukon communities by 2022 informed by community hazard identification and risk assessments (HIRAs) (C12).
- Status of C11 (HIRAs) and C12 (EM plans):
 - EMO visited several communities this winter (2023/24) to coordinate updating EM plans and HIRAs as needed. Coordination with unincorporated communities has also taken place.
 - EMO is encouraging neighboring First Nations and municipalities to follow a joint approach to HIRAs and Emergency Management plan. A joint approach will increase improve coordination and resource-sharing between First Nations and municipalities during incidents; and,
 - Yukon government is also engaged with the City of Whitehorse on joint emergency preparedness, including having collaborated in the Fall 2023 Operation NANOOK-TATIGIIT; and coordinating on pre season fire exercises and preparedness.
 - Additional emergency management exercises are planned for Spring 2024

Financial Implications:

- Community Emergency Planning is managed within the O&M budget of Emergency Measures Organization.
- In 2023/24, EMO had an O&M budget of \$388,000.

Approved by:

January 3, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance Program: Our Clean Future

Community Services

Recommended response:

- The cost of climate change, both financial and personal, is apparent in the Yukon. This summer, much of Canada experienced unprecedented natural disasters, and our thoughts go out to everyone effected by wildfire and flood events.
 - I want to thank the residents, volunteers, contractors, and dedicated emergency responders for their efforts to protect people and properties throughout these events.
 - Work is underway to develop a territorial disaster financial assistance program that will support recovery from natural disasters. The program will outline how Yukon provides financial support for emergency disaster recovery. This will ensure that resources get to Yukoners when they need it most.
-

Context:

- A territorial disaster financial assistance policy is a commitment under Our Clean Future for 2022. While work on this project was delayed due to the pandemic, we are aware of the keen need and the department is working to ensure funding is accessible to property owners in the event of a disaster.
-

Background:

- Status of Disaster Financial Assistance policy (C13):
 - The initial deadline of 2022 for the completion of a territorial Disaster Financial Assistance program was not met due to staff resources diverted to focus on Covid and flood emergency recovery.
-

Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance Program: Our Clean Future

Community Services

- Work is now underway to develop a Disaster Financial Assistance program, which is scheduled to be ready in 2024.
- Emergency Measures Organization is coordinating with affected departments and the climate change secretariate to develop a comprehensive Disaster Financial Assistance for Yukon and to align it with relevant action items (e.g., mitigation funding for homes and buildings before a disaster).
- A Disaster Financial Assistance program aligned to the federal disaster financial assistance arrangement (DFAA) with Yukon would allow individuals, business, and communities to receive a refund for disaster-related costs from the Yukon government. The Yukon government would, in turn, receive a refund from the federal government through its DFAA.
- In spring 2023, the Association of Yukon Communities passed a resolution that government create a Disaster Financial Assistance program to help municipalities respond to natural disaster and work with Yukon municipalities on undertaking long-term mitigation projects to protect community infrastructure from natural disaster.
- Currently, Yukon creates programs to deal with specific events and aligns eligibility with the federal recovery program. The future policy is likely to align with the federal recovery program.

Financial Implications:

- Federal recoveries are available under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA).
- Eligible expenses for the DFAA may be reimbursed to the territory under a cost-sharing formula that is based upon rates determined by the Government of Canada and prorated to the territorial population.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# EMO-04

Spring 2024

Yukon Disaster Financial Assistance Program: Our Clean Future

Community Services

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

2024 Flood Readiness

Community Services
Environment

Recommended response:

- We understand the concerns of Yukoners about the potential for spring flooding. We have experienced significant floods in recent years, and I want to assure Yukoners that we are working hard to be prepared to respond.
- The Emergency Measures Organization is planning and coordinating with local governments and agencies to establish an inventory of sandbags and necessary response tools and materials, and is focused on training to bolster capacity and ensure readiness.
- The Emergency Measures Organization is also working with municipalities, First Nations and other partners such as Water Resources Branch and Environment and Climate Change Canada to coordinate weather and flood forecasting moving into the spring melt.

Additional response:

- The April 1 snow bulletin, shows low flood potential in most of the territory this spring with higher risk in the Klondike and Porcupine.
- Spring weather, the timing and progression of snowmelt, the evolution of breakup, as well as the amount of rain we receive are important drivers of flooding regardless of snowpack levels.
- The Department of Environment continues to work with the Emergency Measures Organization to plan and coordinate with local governments and agencies to enhance flood preparedness and emergency response efforts.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

2024 Flood Readiness

Community Services
Environment

- Officials from Community Services work closely with the Department of Environment to track water levels, snow levels, and provide forecasting data in the spring.

Third response

Old Crow Flood Risk:

- Old Crow currently has the highest relative flood risk due to the record snowpack (166% of normal) and the potential for that to drive high flows on the Porcupine River if the snow melts rapidly. This could result in flooding during breakup due to high ice jam-induced water levels, or the open water period due to high snowmelt peak flows.
- The risk of ice jamming is influenced by both the strength of the ice cover and upstream flows that drive the downstream progression of breakup; both highly dependent on the weather conditions leading up to breakup. Rapid warming could result in more severe ice jamming if river flow rises rapidly before substantial ice decay has occurred.
- The Emergency Measures Organization is in regular contact with Old Crow. Water levels are being carefully monitored by hydrologists at the Water Resources Branch.
- Any response will be appropriate to the circumstances on the ground and the unique challenges of Old Crow's remote location.

Dawson Flood Preparedness

- The Klondike is also seeing above average snowpack this year and is currently 124% of the historical median.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

2024 Flood Readiness

Community Services
Environment

- The current flood risk for the Klondike Valley is above average and highest around the Klondike highway bridge and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in C4 subdivision, and low-lying areas for several kilometers upstream of the bridge, as a result of the potential for ice jamming.
 - On April 22, the Government of Yukon issued a high-water advisory for the Klondike River. Water levels could change rapidly with ice movements along the river this week.
 - Planners from the Emergency Measures Organization are meeting with officials from the City of Dawson and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. They have conducted a tabletop exercise to support flood preparedness in the region.
 - Emergency equipment will be inventoried as part of this exercise.
 - For both Old Crow and Dawson, the Emergency Measures Organization is reviewing all mitigation options to ensure that the appropriate equipment and approaches are deployed.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue because annual flooding since summer 2021 has raised public interest in Yukon government's flood response role.
-

Background:

- The Emergency Measures Organization works with communities, municipalities, and First Nation governments across the Yukon on emergency preparedness. EMO has reached out to all Yukon communities to begin preparations for this response season. EMO will pre-position flood response materials in Yukon communities as needed.
-

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

2024 Flood Readiness

Community Services
Environment

- We are prepared for the flood season throughout the Yukon. We have adequate supplies to ensure communities are prepared for the onset of the flood response season.
- The Snow Survey Bulletin and Water Supply Forecast reports provide a summary of winter meteorological and hydrological conditions for major Yukon watersheds.
- They provide long-term snowpack averages, monthly data and current snow depth and snow water equivalent observations for 52 locations in the Yukon and five locations in the neighbouring areas of British Columbia and Alaska.
- The April 1 snow survey typically represents peak snowpack.
- Every March, April, and May the Government of Yukon conducts Yukon-wide snow surveys to help forecast water levels and flow conditions across the Yukon.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Residential Landlord Tenant Act **Review**

Community Services

Recommended response

- As part of the review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*, Community Services led robust engagement that included targeted stakeholder and interest group engagement, and broad public engagement.
- For the stakeholder and interest group engagement, members of the public were invited to participate in an innovative Solutions Lab. The Lab gathered a diverse group of Yukoners and tasked them with developing recommendations on how the legislation can support a balanced and thriving rental market in the territory.
- Broad public engagement was held during the month of February 2024. This included a survey developed in partnership with the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, online public information sessions, and in-person meetings and workshops. A range of dates, locations and formats were offered to allow for maximum participation.
- I want to thank participants in the stakeholder and broader public engagement. We received a lot of feedback from many different perspectives. Whether people completed the survey, participated in the online sessions, in-person workshops or meetings, or all of the above, your feedback has been crucial to our efforts to improve this legislation.

Context:

- Under the 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement, the Yukon government committed to initiating a review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* in June of 2023.

Residential Landlord Tenant Act **Review**

Community Services

Background:

- Community Services engaged independent contractors to design and lead the engagement. A broad range of stakeholder and interest groups were initially invited to participate. A group of 11 individuals were able to participate in what was an involved and robust engagement titled the “Solutions Lab”. Participants met 17 times over two months. These individuals brought their perspectives and experience from landlord and tenant affiliated groups, including:
 - the Safe at Home Society;
 - the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition;
 - the Yukon Tenants Association;
 - the Yukon Council on Aging;
 - the Residential Landlords Association;
 - the Chamber of Commerce Housing Committee;
 - Da Daghay Development Corporation;
 - Gray Management Services;
 - the Yukon Real Estate Association; and
 - the Association of Yukon Communities.
- Community Services launched public engagement on February 1, 2024, to solicit feedback from tenants and landlords across the territory. As part of the public engagement, CS partnered with Yukon Bureau of Statistics to launch a survey. The survey’s format allowed participants to dive deep into the topics that matter most to them. It also offered many opportunities to provide open-ended feedback. The survey was available online and paper copies were distributed throughout the territory and Whitehorse, to provide alternate ways to participate.
- Another part of the public engagement involved online and in-person meetings. CS held nine public engagement events throughout February. These were conducted online and in person in Whitehorse, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and

Residential Landlord Tenant Act **Review**

Community Services

Dawson City. These meetings offered the public different formats including providing information and background, a town hall format to provide input, sit-down workshops, and direct sit-down meetings with the policy makers involved with the project.

- At the same time, more targeted engagement was happening throughout February with municipal governments, First Nation Governments, the Yukon Residential Landlord Association, NGOs, the business community, and fire departments and protective services. We heard from NGO representatives for:
 - Yukon Anti Poverty Coalition;
 - Safe At Home;
 - Blood Ties Four Directions;
 - Yukon Aboriginal Women's circle;
 - Women's Coalition;
 - Council of Yukon First Nations; and
 - Betty's Haven;
- Policy makers also met with the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights, a national housing advocacy group.
- The early themes identified in the initial engagement were put to the public to expand upon their ideas. For example, areas for to improve clarity in the Act; new approaches to rent control; compliance and enforcement; data collection; how to end a tenancy; and the dispute resolution process. Through the survey, online and in person meetings, the public were also offered opportunities to provide any other feedback, beyond those that came from the Solutions Lab.
- These events were broadly advertised, starting in late January and continuing throughout the month of February, including with posters, paid radio ads, public service announcements, print ads in newspapers, news media interviews, social media and paid Facebook ads. Feedback through engagement will be shared in a what we heard report and to help inform future potential amendments and policy.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# ESRT-01

Spring 2024

Residential Landlord Tenant Act **Review**

Community Services

Approved by:

February 26, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Mobile home parks are an important housing option for many Yukoners. The *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* applies when a mobile homeowner rents a pad from the mobile home park. When conflicts arise, the Residential Tenancies Office is available to help resolve the dispute. The Office is a helpful resource for all tenants and landlords.
- Although mobile home pad tenancies are in many ways treated the same as renting an apartment or a house, there are important differences. The Residential Tenancies Office provides resources that are specific to mobile homes so that landlords and tenants are aware of their rights and responsibilities under the law.
- Community Services is in the midst of a review of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*. The department is fortunate to get the benefit of feedback from mobile home pad renters and landlords as well as all those who provided their perspectives on the Act.

Context:

- Concerns related to the risk of mobile homeownership in the context of landlord and tenant relationships is often highlighted.

Background:

- Under the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*, a landlord may end a tenancy with cause, for non-payment of rent, if the landlord or their immediate family

member will occupy the site, or if the landlord is changing the use from a mobile home park to a non-residential or other use.

- Mobile homeowners who are tenants of a mobile home site should contact the Residential Tenancies Office if a dispute arises with their landlord. There are several protections in place, including but not limited to, prohibitions against landlords unreasonably interfering with the sale of a mobile home that occupies one of their sites.
- If a mobile home park landlord wishes to end a tenancy because they, or an immediate family member, will occupy the mobile home site, they must provide at least 12 months' notice, and cannot have the tenancy end in December, January or February.
- If a landlord wishes to change the use of the mobile home park (i.e., for a condo development or a non-residential use), the landlord must give the tenant at least 18 months' notice, and cannot have the tenancy end in December, January or February.
- If a landlord wishes to end a tenancy with cause, the normal rules apply. The landlord must use the approved form, serve it in one of the prescribed ways, and give the tenant at least 14 days' notice.
- The Residential Tenancies Office has internal processes to encourage mediation and settlement and to render fair decisions that follow the law in cases where settlement cannot be reached. Their processes are confidential and include statutory mechanisms for review if a party takes issue with their decision.
- The Government of Yukon began a review of the Residential Landlord and Tenant Act in June 2023. In the fall of 2023, Community Services engaged independent contractors to design and lead stakeholder engagement. It began with one-on-one interviews and a group session to hear from individuals representing landlords and tenants. The group met 17 times over two months. Their work helped to inform policy considerations for the public engagement.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# ESRT-02

Spring 2024

Mobile Home Parks

Community Services

- We launched public engagement on February 1 to solicit feedback from landlords and tenants across the territory. We partnered with Yukon Bureau of Statistics to launch a survey. The survey's format allows participants to dive deep into the topics that matter most to them. As part of public engagement, we also offered public information sessions and offered an open forum for people to provide input beyond the survey.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Minimum Wage and Living Wage

Community Services

Recommended response:

- By order of the Employment Standards Board, the minimum wage in the Yukon increases on April 1 each year by the previous year's Consumer Price Index.
- The current minimum wage is \$16.77 per hour. As of April 1, 2024, following a \$0.82 increase, the new minimum wage rate will be \$17.59 per hour. This is based on the 2023 annual Consumer Price Index of 4.9%.
- A minimum wage tied to inflation, as with other social supports, aims to reduce poverty and increase affordability for the Yukon's wage earners.

Additional response:

- I want to acknowledge the important work done by the Anti-Poverty Coalition to calculate the Yukon's living wage. Poverty reduction is highly complex and multi-faceted issue.
- All input is welcome, including from members of the business, non-profit, and advocacy community, to help inform our strategies to improve the lives and livelihoods of Yukoners.

Context:

- The Yukon has one of the highest minimum wage rates in Canada (second only to Nunavut).
-

Minimum Wage and Living Wage

Community Services

Background:

- The 2021 Confidence and Supply Agreement included provisions to increase the minimum wage. The Employment Standards Board was engaged to review the matter, and it ordered that the minimum wage increase to \$15.20 per hour effective August 1, 2021, and to be adjusted by the Consumer Price Index for Whitehorse on April 1 of each year.
- The minimum wage is not a living wage. The Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition released a report called “Living Wage in Whitehorse, Yukon: 2023.” The report stated that the living wage had increased from \$18.28 per hour in 2022 to \$21.04 per hour in 2023. Notably, the living wage in 2022 was a decrease from the living wage of \$20.95 in 2021. The decrease was attributed to benefits such as Yukon Early Learning and the Child Care Funding Program.
- Yukon is one of many jurisdictions that use the Consumer Price Index for minimum wage increases. Other jurisdictions include: Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and British Columbia. As of April 1, 2024, Nova Scotia’s minimum wage will be tied to Consumer Price Index plus 1%.

Jurisdiction	Wage, Jan 1 2024	Notes
NU	\$19.00	Effective as of January 1, 2024. The minimum wage in NU is reviewed annually on April 1.
Yukon	\$16.77	Effective as of April 1, 2023. The minimum wage is adjusted on April 1 of each year by the Consumer Price Index. As of April 1, 2024, the new minimum wage rate will be \$17.59 per hour.
BC	\$16.75	Effective as of June 1, 2023. Will increase to \$17.40 per hour on June 1, 2024.
NWT	\$16.05	Effective as of Sept 1, 2023, adjusted annually on CPI and the average hourly wage for the preceding calendar year
AB	\$15.00	Effective as of October 1, 2018.
ON	\$16.55	Effective as of October 1, 2023, and adjusted annually on October 1 of each year based on CPI.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# ESRT-03

Spring 2024

Minimum Wage and Living Wage

Community Services

QC	\$15.25	Effective as of May 1, 2023. The minimum wage will increase to \$15.75 on May 1, 2024.
PEI	\$15.00	Effective as of Oct 1, 2023. The minimum wage will increase to \$15.40 on April 1, 2024, and \$16.00 on October 1, 2024.
NS	\$15.00	Effective as of October 1, 2023. The minimum wage will increase to \$15.20 on April 1, 2024.
NFLD+L	\$15.00	Effective as of October 1, 2023.
MB	\$15.30	Effective as of October 1, 2023. The minimum wage is adjusted annually on October 1st based on CPI.
SK	\$14.00	Effective as of October 1, 2023. The minimum wage will increase to \$15.00 on October 1, 2024 . Generally increased by CPI and Average Hourly Wage, but alternative adjustments can be made.
NB	\$14.75	Effective as of April 1, 2023. The minimum wage will increase to \$15.30 on April 1, 2024 . Adjusted annually based on CPI.
Federal	\$16.65	Effective as of April 1, 2023. The minimum wage will increase to \$17.30 on April 1, 2024 . Adjusted annually based on CPI.

Yukon's Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Year	Yukon	Year	Yukon
2023	4.9%	2016	1.0%
2022	6.8%	2015	-2.0%
2021	3.3%	2014	1.3%
2020	1.0%	2013	1.7%
2019	2.0%	2012	2.3%
2018	2.4%	2011	3.0%
2017	1.7%	2010	0.8%

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

Date

Prepared for Minister Mostyn
Community Services

Date prepared: January 18, 2024
Last Updated:
Page 3 of 3

Recommended response:

- The Fire Marshal's Office provides oversight, training, honoraria and equipment for community fire departments and programs, but rely on a core of volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to train and be available.
- The Fire Marshal's Office works hard to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters in the Yukon. Their efforts include hosting community meetings as well as working with the Yukon's First Nations and local governments.
- The Fire Marshal's Office has developed a levels of service model. In this model, one person in a community can build fire resilience through prevention and education as a Fire Safety Champion. Four people can support a Scene Safety Response Unit program, and eight people can support a basic fire service.
- I want to thank all emergency responders, especially the volunteers in the communities, who keep our citizens safe.

Context:

- Many rural Yukon communities struggle to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters.

Background:

- Throughout the territory, the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) operates unincorporated community fire halls, maintains firefighting equipment and vehicles, provides training that meets national standards, presents public education campaigns for life-safety and fire prevention, and supports municipalities with training and resources.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# FMO-01

Spring 2024

Volunteer Fire Department

Community Services

- The FMO provides oversight, training, honoraria and equipment for community fire departments and programs, but are only able to do so with a core of volunteers who dedicate their time and effort to train and be available.
- Declining volunteer levels is an issue across Canada. Small communities often struggle with volunteer membership and recruitment. They may achieve positive retention for a few years, but due to a limitations within the community, volunteer levels sometimes decrease to the point that a fire hall becomes functionally inactive. The FMO has implemented a levels of service model to address this and is actively evaluating further options including enhanced community outreach and increased honoraria for volunteer firefighters.
- Occupational Health and Safety requirements for firefighters must be met to prevent responder injury or loss of life.
- In the 17 unincorporated communities, volunteer departments require interested community members and assistance to recruit and retain a minimum number of volunteer firefighters. The fire services that are provided by the FMO include the provision of all fire response equipment and vehicles, training and logistics, as well as the administration of the community volunteer fire halls (training records, honoraria and standard operational procedures).
- The eight municipal departments require interested community members and assistance from the municipality to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters to provide fire services. The Yukon government supports municipalities by providing funding and provisioning resources on an 'as needed' basis, and as capacity allows. This includes training for staff and volunteers as well as equipment on a case-by-case basis to cover areas not easily reachable by unincorporated halls.

COMMUNITY	INCIDENT VOLUME (in 2023)	# OF ACTIVE FIRE VOLUNTEERS (JAN 2023)	COMMUNITY POP. (2023)
BEAVER CREEK	0	1 (FSC)	107
BURWASH LANDING	1	4	104
CARCROSS	12	5	488

Session Briefing Note

TAB# FMO-01

Spring 2024

Volunteer Fire Department

Community Services

DESTRUCTION BAY	0	4 (SSRU)	63
GOLDEN HORN	23	21	609
HOOTALINQUA	35	23	1,599
IBEX	21	15	547
KLONDIKE VALLEY	38	4	No data
KENO	0	6 (SSRU)	24 (from 2020)
MARSH LAKE	22	15	734
MT. LORNE	12	20	479
MENDENHALL	0	0	328 (from 2020)
OLD CROW	0	7 (SSRU)	255
PELLY CROSSING	1	5 (SSRU)	373
ROSS RIVER	2	9 (SSRU)	407
TAGISH	4	9	390
(SHOT) YUKON	12	(22) In VFD's	45,169
UPPER LIARD	0	1 (FSC)	130
TOTAL	183	157 ***	N/A

*FSC = Fire Safety Champion

**SSRU = Scene Safety Response Unit

*** Each volunteer is counted once, even if individuals serve in more than one hall (for example, SHOT members)

Financial Implications:

- Approximately \$1.1 million is budgeted for the Fire Marshal's Office activities for 2023-24. This includes the operation of community fire halls, honoraria and travel for volunteers, as well as program administration costs.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# FMO-01

Spring 2024

Volunteer Fire Department

Community Services

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Fire Marshal's Office is committed to working with Yukon communities to support a pragmatic level of service. An independent review of fire services in rural Yukon was released in 2021, and the Fire Marshal's Office is making good progress at implementing those recommendations to ensure safe and sustainable fire services across the territory.
- The Fire Marshal's Office has acted on this feedback by developing a levels of service response model, formalizing mutual aid agreements and implementing a Fire Safety Champion program that focuses on fire prevention and education.
- The Fire Marshal's Office has visited every unincorporated community to discuss the different levels of service that can be established. Many of these visits have resulted in a Scene Safety Response Program in previously unserved areas. This includes working with the Champagne and Aishiak First Nations to support a Scene Safety Response Unit program in Champagne.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The fire services review continues to guide changes in approach at the Fire Marshal's Office in order to improve fire services generally in the territory.

Background:

- With 104 recommendations included in the review, work is ongoing. The recommendations have helped to guide the Fire Marshal's Office work plans.
- Yukon government took immediate action on several of the short-term recommendations identified in the review, particularly as they pertain to firefighter safety and Occupational Health and Safety compliance.

- Since the release of the review in December 2021, the Fire Marshal's Office presented the report and met with communities and fire service stakeholders.
- A Scene Safety Response Unit has been implemented in Keno, Ross River, Pelly, Old Crow and Destruction Bay. Further training is currently being coordinated in Upper Liard and work is being done to establish programs in other unincorporated communities that do not have the capacity to maintain a traditional volunteer fire department such as Mendenhall and Beaver Creek.
- Implementation of the Levels of Service Model is expected to be complete by the end of 2024. This model will help unincorporated communities to deliver safe fire related programs that can be adjusted according to volunteer capacity and community participation. It consists of three types: Fire Safety Champion, Scene Safety Response Unit and Basic Fire Department.
- The development of the model was informed by a national cross jurisdictional scan along with engagement with key stakeholders, community organizations, and First Nation leaders.
- The Fire Marshal supports training of volunteers so the fire department meets Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and national standards to ensure the health and safety of firefighters and includes requisite training, qualifications and response protocols.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Recommended response:

- Municipalities play a vital role in public safety and the Fire Marshal's Office provides support by helping to build capacity and develop fire and life safety programs and initiatives.
- The Fire Marshal's Office offers training to municipal fire service members and employees so that they can perform life safety inspections and fire investigations. In municipalities where this training has not been taken, the Fire Marshal's Office works with municipalities to provide these services.
- I want to thank all the municipal and volunteer firefighters, and those at the Fire Marshals Office for their extraordinary efforts and collaboration to protect our communities during floods and this extreme wildfire season. A big thank you to those who stepped up to assist with the evacuation and response during the evacuation of Yellowknife.

Context:

- This may become an issue as recruitment and retention of volunteers and career firefighters can be challenging in some communities.

Background:

- Municipalities are responsible for administering Fire and Life Safety programs under the Municipal Act.
- The Fire Marshal's Office provides municipalities with equipment, apparatus and recruitment support. The Fire Marshal's Office supports large scale incidents in municipalities by providing mutual aid to supplement local fire resources. During the Mayo fires, Deputy Fire Marshals and volunteer fire service members assisted with structure protection and evacuation efforts.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# FMO-03

Spring 2024

Municipal Fire Service Support

Community Services

- The Fire Marshal's Office works with Chief Administrative Officers and municipal Fire Chiefs to offer training and bolster internal capacity.
- In 2023, the Fire Marshal's Office assisted with multiple fire investigations and Fire & Life Safety inspections in the municipalities at the request of the local area Fire Chiefs or CAOs.
- The Fire Marshal's Office supports municipalities with recruitment drives and continues to work with municipalities to provide fire prevention and education messaging.
- The Fire Marshal's Office supports Fire Prevention and Education in the municipalities by providing information resources and giving presentations at the schools when requested.
- Currently, the Fire Marshal's Office has following equipment in municipalities:
 - 5 Fire Apparatus (large trucks/pumpers);
 - 1 mini pumper;
 - 2 rescue trucks, and;
 - 1 suburban.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Recommended response:

- One of the most effective methods of preventing fire and life safety incidents is through public education and effective community outreach.
- To help reach communities, the Fire Marshal's Office has implemented a Fire Safety Champion program. Fire Safety Champions help organize community events that promote fire and life safety initiatives. The program is supported by a designated Deputy Fire Marshal, who serves as a public outreach and prevention coordinator.
- I want to acknowledge and thank these community-minded champions who work with the Fire Marshal's Office to raise awareness about fire safety and prevention.

Additional response:

- There are Fire Safety Champions located in Old Crow, Keno, Ross River and Pelly Crossing.
- Fire Safety Champions play a valuable role in their communities, providing things like fire extinguisher training and public education ensuring individuals have escape plans in the event of a house fire.
- The Fire Marshal's Office will continue to work with municipalities and unincorporated communities to support the implementation of Fire Safety Champion programs throughout the territory.

Context:

- The program is a result of the 2021 Fire Services Review, which recommended more emphasis on public education.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# FMO-04

Spring 2024

Public Education on Fire Service

Community Services

Background:

- Several unincorporated communities do not have the capacity to support a response-based fire service. It is especially important in these communities that the focus be on prevention and education.
- Prevention and education are proven to decrease property damage and loss of life secondary to fire.
- This fulfills Recommendation A from the 2021 independent “Review of the Yukon Fire Marshal’s Office fire suppression and rescue resources distribution”

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

Community Services

Recommended response:

- We continue to advocate for more federal investments in infrastructure for the North. For stable, predictable, base plus funding for the benefit of Yukon communities, municipal and First Nation governments.
- We collaborated with our territorial counterparts to advocate for recognition in infrastructure funding programs of our unique northern needs and to address the historical infrastructure gap that the three territories face.
- Together with our northern neighbours, we have a strong voice, and we continue to work with our municipal and First Nation partners to promote a dedicated and substantial allocation for the North.
- We all look forward to the details of Canada's renewal of federal investment in infrastructure; and in the meantime, we are maximizing the benefit of past and current federal investment in infrastructure for Yukoners.

Context:

- The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funding is fully subscribed, and more federal investment is required to support infrastructure in the Yukon.

Background:

- Since the signing of the Small Communities Fund and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, the Yukon, with the support of the Government of Canada, has committed over \$777 million on 124 infrastructure projects.

Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

Community Services

- Community Services, Infrastructure Development Branch, manages the following federal funding agreements - Small Communities Fund (SCF), Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF).
- Infrastructure Development Branch also supports municipalities and First Nations on Infrastructure Canada application-based funding.

INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (ICIP):

- The Yukon signed the Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program in May 2018. Through this program the Yukon will see \$454.7 million in federal funding that will support projects before the funding ends in 2032/33.
- Deadline for final applications for the ICIP program – thus a finalization of priorities by the Government of Yukon – is March 31, 2025.
- To date, under ICIP, Yukon has advanced 63 projects totaling \$495.6M of combined federal and Yukon contributions.

SMALL COMMUNITIES FUND (SCF):

- The Yukon signed the Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the Small Communities Fund (SCF) in Feb 2015, with all spending to be completed by 2027.
- Under SCF the Yukon has 61 projects totaling \$341.7M of combined federal and Yukon contributions.

CANADA COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND (CCBF):

- The Canada Community Building Fund, formerly Gas Tax Fund, is a permanent, stable and indexed source of infrastructure funding that flows through the Government of Yukon to Municipalities and First Nations to plan for their current and future needs and build or improve their infrastructure. Unincorporated communities access funding through the Government of Yukon.

Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

Community Services

- CCBF was signed in 2014 and is set to expire in 2024. This agreement transferred \$196 million dollars to Yukon during the last 10 years. These funds are distributed twice annually by the Government of Canada.
- Allocation of this funding is provided on a formula basis but held in trust by the Government of Yukon until projects are approved and reporting submitted.
- The 2023/24 total funding from Canada is \$18 million.
- The trust's 22/23 fiscal year end closing balance was \$126 million.
- For the renewal, Yukon is engaging with the Government of Canada, Ultimate Recipients (municipalities and Yukon First Nations governments) as well as the Association of Yukon Communities. Changes in the draft agreement are the following:
 - Increased reporting in frequency and in scope of information
 - New housing requirements span from reporting to the expectations from Canada that provinces and territories can address housing supply and affordability through CCBF.
- Officials are reviewing the renewal agreement, working with the municipalities, and First Nations to understand their priorities for the next version of this important agreement. This next agreement will ensure that funding continues for the next 10 years, which will allow Yukon's communities to prioritize important infrastructure projects to the benefit of our communities and citizens.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

- Canada has recently introduced the Permanent Public Transit Funding initiative, committing an average disbursement of \$3 billion annually, commencing in 2026-27. This funding aim is to enhance access to public transit and active transportation. INFC has yet to refine its delivery model, but it is expected to be delivered through a hybrid model.

Infrastructure Programs and Renewal

Community Services

- Since 2018, Canada has announced a number of new, application-based funding programs for community infrastructure without a specific allocation to the Yukon. These include:
 - Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program (GIBC)- supports green and accessible retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public community buildings and the construction of new publicly accessible community buildings. Direct federal funding, application based. In the second intake, IDB did not support any applications.
 - Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) – supports investment in structural and natural infrastructure projects to increase the resilience of communities that are impacted by natural disasters triggered by climate change. For the July 2023 intake Yukon applications were submitted to Canada including Carmacks flood mitigation, City of Whitehorse for Robert Service Way landslides, and Village of Teslin for flood mitigation.
 - Rural Transit Solutions Fund (RTSF) – supports the development of transit solutions in rural and remote communities. Intake is currently open for both planning/design and construction projects.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Recommended response:

- A public water supply has been a long-standing priority for the Hamlet of Mount Lorne, and for this government.
- Community Services is well underway with planning to design and construct a new water treatment plant to supply the residents of Mount Lorne with clean potable water.
- The team is also working closely with residents to explore a piped water supply to the Community Center.
- In the summer of 2023, Community Services completed the drilling of a test water well. Water testing confirmed the water quality test parameters and adequate flow for a community water supply. This is positive news for the potential of a piped water supply.
- A tender for construction will be issued in fiscal year 2024/2025.

Context:

- This project is of interest to local residents.

Background:

- Mount Lorne has requested a Water Treatment Plant as early as 2015. In 2018, a feasibility study was conducted and in 2020, a commitment was made by the Minister of CS that YG will conduct planning and design work and will work to secure funding.
- In spring 2022, an engineering consultant was engaged to determine project requirements, oversee conceptual design, hydrogeological assessment, and oversee the test well-drilling. Well-drilling was delayed by more than a year until 2023 due to unanticipated permitting requirements. Conceptual design is now underway.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# ID-02

Spring 2024

Mt. Lorne Water Treatment Plant Community Services

- The proposed Water Treatment Plant will be constructed on an existing Sport & Recreation reserve on the Annie Lake Road adjacent to the LMCC. It will be operated by Community Operations Branch.
- It is anticipated the project will qualify for 100% funding by Canada under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program with an upset budget limit of \$3.6 Million.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Dawson City Recreation Centre
and Dome Road Subdivision**Community Services

Recommended response:

- The construction of a new recreation centre is a long-standing priority for the City of Dawson, and for the Government of Yukon.
 - The municipality has chosen a site at the bottom of Dome Road, which is planned to be adjacent to a new serviced subdivision that will have up to 55 mixed residential lots.
 - The project team has designed an innovative project management and procurement approach to build the recreation center within the total \$65 million budget envelope.
 - The project team is working closely with the community to fit this ambitious project within the site, budget and operating cost constraints.
 - The Progressive Design Build contract is currently out to tender and is expected to be awarded in May. Once regulatory approvals are in place land preparations are expected to begin this summer, with construction to start in 2025.
-

Context:

- This is an important project for the City of Dawson.
-

Background:**Dawson City Recreation Centre:**

- The Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre had been in use for a short period of time before structural and foundational issues became apparent in 2009. In response to these issues, the City of Dawson and the Government of Yukon entered into a funding agreement for \$4 million.
 - Funding over the years helped repair specific aspects of the facility. However, the ongoing permafrost has resulted in a situation where repairs are no longer
-

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

**Dawson City Recreation Centre
and Dome Road Subdivision**

Community Services

possible or recommended, as public safety has become an issue. Past news releases have announced repairs to the existing facility.

- Dawson City council voted in 2018 to build a new facility, rather than spend \$19.5 million to repair the old one because of structural issues.
- A Feasibility Study was completed in 2021, after which Dawson City Council selected the bottom of the Dome Road as the location of the new facility.
- Public Engagement took place in the spring of 2021 to seek community feedback as part of the Feasibility Study for a new recreation facility.
- Commitment to manage the project was announced in the 2022-23 Spring Budget speech. Yukon government has identified budget up to \$65.6 million for the project and will seek to fund this under federal infrastructure programs. It is in the current Five-Year Yukon government capital plan.

Lower Dome Road Subdivision and Site Preparation:

- The tender for the first phase of the subdivision, which includes 15 serviced lots - 6 townhouse, 4 duplex and 5 single lots – is targeted for summer 2024, pending ongoing regulatory processes.
- Detailed design and regulatory work including fisheries and water license work is underway for the lower dome area with a focus on the recreation centre site and Phase one of the subdivision.

Approved by:

February 26, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Recommended Response:

- Whitehorse is a growing community, and we expect long-term demand for housing to continue. The Land Development branch (LDB) works with the City of Whitehorse to create neighbourhoods that meet this demand, including the beautiful and vibrant neighbourhood of Whistle Bend.
- We also work with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC) and Kwanlin Dun First Nation (KDFN) to support their land development objectives, like Range Point Road.
- We have completed construction of Whistle Bend Phase 7, which will make 130 new lots available including: 87 single family, 41 townhouse, and 2 multi-family.

Additional response:

- Construction of Phases 9, 12 and 13 will continue this year. These phases also contain two lift stations.
- When land development is complete, Whistle Bend will provide a full-service, sustainable neighborhood of about 2,000 lots, which could provide homes for about 10,000 people to accommodate our growing population.

Context:

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

Background:

New Residential Infill Parcels

- There is a range of land development work underway in Whitehorse, including continued Whistle Bend development and feasibility, planning, and design work for development on numerous Whitehorse sites identified or supported in the City's new Official Community Plan.
- LDB will work with the city to consider feasibility work in 2024 on Council-supported or OCP-compliant parcels within the city. The feasibility work would determine if the sites were suitable for development, and if they are suitable may be prioritized for high-level master plan process and public engagement.

Copper Ridge Parcels 519/520

- This site is identified in the City's new OCP as future residential. LDB led completion of the feasibility and infrastructure capacity work and the City led a high-level master plan process that is nearing completion.
- The proposed option is to release this site to target potential private sector developers.

Joint YG-KDFN Range Point Road

- LDB and KDFN have worked in partnership to complete the master plan, YESAA and zoning for this medium to high density development. This partnership will continue through detailed design, which was tendered in February 2024, and construction, which has tender target of Fall 2024 to allow for clearing and groundwork next winter.
- This will provide up to 400 units of housing.

Whistle Bend South Bench

- This site, located between Whistle Bend Way and Range Road, is identified as a future development site in the City's OCP.
- LDB has completed feasibility work (geotechnical, noise and dust studies, heritage).

- The project could be brought forward for high-level master plan process including public engagement.

North/South Future Growth Areas

- These two areas – Long Lake and Maclean Lake – are identified in the City's OCP as future development areas in Whitehorse.
- LDB is the coordination lead for feasibility studies, building on initial feasibility reports completed in 2017. The work is being carried out under a Joint-KDFN-TKC-City-YG MOU, through a joint work plan and working group.
- Completion of feasibility work is targeted for December 2024 to enable high-level master plan process and public engagement to potentially start in 2025.

Valleyview South Master Plan (including Tank Farm)

- The City-led multi-owner master plan is set to go to City Council in Spring 2024.
- The site is identified in the OCP to provide a significant source of housing units up until 2040.
- To date YG has participated in the planning as a minor landowner within the plan area. YG's contribution has been land (in the plan area) for common infrastructure such as storm water bioswale and lift stations sites.

Approved by:

February 26, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Yukon is made up of vibrant and growing communities that require a supply of available building lots to allow families and businesses to grow and thrive. We collaborate with municipalities, First Nations, and the private sector to help meet this need.
- This season we have forwarded more than 60 lots outside of Whistle Bend for release, some in every Yukon municipality, and many more projects are underway. Highlights include: the Carmacks Prospector extension, various Faro and Mayo infill lots, the Lone Tree subdivision near Teslin, and the last phase of Grizzly Valley.
- Community Services is advancing additional projects in every municipality in the Yukon, helping to guide the land development process from feasibility, to planning, to construction, and final lot preparation.
- Construction highlights this summer will include the 43 lot Francis Avenue Extension in Watson Lake, and the first phase of the 44 lot Willow Acres expansion in Haines Junction.

Additional Response (Willow Acres):

- The land clearing work underway in Haines Junction will create 44 new serviced residential lots in Haines Junction.
- The Village of Haines Junction is anticipated to grow by 63% between 2022 and 2040. This development will introduce a significant number of new serviced lots to the market, facilitating the community's growth in a deliberate and sustainable manner.

- The Haines Junction Council adopted the master plan for this project, and all the current and eventual work on the site is guided by the approved master plan.
 - The subdivision construction, including the initial land clearing, is required to install water mains, sanitary sewer mains, support stormwater infrastructure and site drainage.
 - Departmental officials meet regularly with Haines Junction town council to provide updates and a public information session information is being planned.
-

Context:

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

Background:

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

Community Summaries

Carmacks:

- Six (6) urban lots have been forwarded to EMR for release in Spring 2024.

Dawson

- Pending heritage protection decisions, three or four more infill lots are targeted for release later for 2024. An industrial parcel is being prepared for release later this year.

Faro

- Seven (7) serviced infill lots have been forwarded for release in Spring 2024.
-

Haines Junction

- Two (2) urban lots have been forwarded for release in Spring 2024. Three (3) lots are currently available over the counter.
- The serviced Willow Acres Expansion Phase 1 & 2 is underway (44 lots) with targeted completion set for summer 2025.
- Project was announced by news release on March 13, including the following quote from the Mayor of Haines Junction:
 - The Village of Haines Junction Council is happy to announce the launch of the newest subdivision expansion within the community. This development is set to introduce a significant number of new serviced lots to the market, facilitating the community's growth in a deliberate and sustainable manner. The project represents the culmination of several years of collaborative effort between the Council and the Yukon Land Development Branch. We are excited to see the project start in the upcoming days.

Mayo

- Five (5) infill lots have been forwarded for release in Spring 2024. There are currently two (2) lots available over the counter.
- Design of the 7th Ave North urban expansion which could provide a long-term supply of lots, will begin this spring.

Teslin

- Twenty-one (21) Lone Tree and 2 large Airport industrial lots have been forwarded for release in Spring 2024.

Watson Lake

- One (1) vacant infill lots have been forwarded for release in Spring 2024. There are currently two (2) lots available over the counter.
- Francis Avenue 43 lot extension and lift station construction is targeted for completion in Fall 2024. Under the agreement, 18 of the lots will be transferred to LFN.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# LD-02

Spring 2024

Rural Land Development

Community Services

Whitehorse Periphery

- Another 20+ lots in the Whitehorse periphery, including up to 15 in the Grizzley Valley subdivision have been forwarded for release in Spring 2024.

Approved by:

February 22, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Dawson City Recreation Centre
and Dome Road Subdivision**Community Services

Recommended response:

- The construction of a new recreation centre is a long-standing priority for the City of Dawson, and for the Government of Yukon.
 - The municipality has chosen a site at the bottom of Dome Road, which is planned to be adjacent to a new serviced subdivision that will have up to 55 mixed residential lots.
 - The project team has designed an innovative project management and procurement approach to build the recreation center within the total \$65 million budget envelope.
 - The project team is working closely with the community to fit this ambitious project within the site, budget and operating cost constraints.
 - The Progressive Design Build contract is currently out to tender and is expected to be awarded in May. Once regulatory approvals are in place land preparations are expected to begin this summer, with construction to start in 2025.
-

Context:

- This is an important project for the City of Dawson.
-

Background:**Dawson City Recreation Centre:**

- The Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre had been in use for a short period of time before structural and foundational issues became apparent in 2009. In response to these issues, the City of Dawson and the Government of Yukon entered into a funding agreement for \$4 million.
 - Funding over the years helped repair specific aspects of the facility. However, the ongoing permafrost has resulted in a situation where repairs are no longer
-

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

**Dawson City Recreation Centre
and Dome Road Subdivision**

Community Services

possible or recommended, as public safety has become an issue. Past news releases have announced repairs to the existing facility.

- Dawson City council voted in 2018 to build a new facility, rather than spend \$19.5 million to repair the old one because of structural issues.
- A Feasibility Study was completed in 2021, after which Dawson City Council selected the bottom of the Dome Road as the location of the new facility.
- Public Engagement took place in the spring of 2021 to seek community feedback as part of the Feasibility Study for a new recreation facility.
- Commitment to manage the project was announced in the 2022-23 Spring Budget speech. Yukon government has identified budget up to \$65.6 million for the project and will seek to fund this under federal infrastructure programs. It is in the current Five-Year Yukon government capital plan.

Lower Dome Road Subdivision and Site Preparation:

- The tender for the first phase of the subdivision, which includes 15 serviced lots - 6 townhouse, 4 duplex and 5 single lots – is targeted for summer 2024, pending ongoing regulatory processes.
- Detailed design and regulatory work including fisheries and water license work is underway for the lower dome area with a focus on the recreation centre site and Phase one of the subdivision.

Approved by:

February 26, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Lot Sales and Support for Housing and Development

Spring 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

Lots Released Last Year:

- In spring 2023, we released 117 Whistle Bend lots. Of those, 82 lots were for single-family homes, 33 lots for townhouse development and 4 lots for multi-residential development.
- Last spring we also released 28 residential, country residential, and industrial lots in the communities. Of those, 17 were newly developed lots.
- The 5th and Rogers parcel was released by tender in Spring 2023 and the purchase agreement was signed in early March 2024. (See BN #67)

Current Initiatives:

- On April 17 we released through lottery and tender 130 new lots in Phase 7 of Whistle Bend and are planning up to 67 other lots in communities throughout the Yukon in 2024. This includes the release of up to 15 lots in Grizzly Valley, 21 country residential lots in Lone Tree subdivision, and two Teslin Airport industrial lots.
- In Riverdale, 2 Klondike Road, the site of the former Macaulay Lodge, has been released through a tender which closed on April 4, 2024. The lot was rezoned to allow for mixed-use residential and commercial development with supportive housing included as a secondary use. (See BN #72)

Session Briefing Note

Lot Sales and Support for Housing and Development

Spring 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Through the sale of the 5th and Rogers parcel, now known as Kèjān and Rogers, site planning can be advanced through permitting with the City of Whitehorse.
- Several significant projects in the City of Whitehorse are in the planning, design or construction stage which will help address housing pressures in the territory.
- As of April 2, 2024, there are lots available for over-the-counter sale in Haines Junction, Watson Lake, Whitehorse and in the Silver Trail subdivision north of Mayo. These include lots that were purchased through past lotteries and then returned by the purchaser.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There continues to be high demand for building lots within Whitehorse and across the territory.

Background:

Development and sale process

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

Session Briefing Note

Lot Sales and Support for Housing and Development

Spring 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Working with the City Housing and Land Development Advisory Committee we revised requirements to allow builders to obtain title to lots under Agreement for Sale earlier in the building process, prior to occupancy approval.

Our work supporting housing

- Phase 7 in Whistle Bend includes 87 single family lots, two multi-family lots, and 41 new townhouse lots (6 townhouse lots [from a previous phase are also included in the release](#)).
- The Government of Yukon entered into an Agreement for Sale with Da Daghay Development Corporation for Lot 120 in Whistle Bend in January 2023. This sale included the requirement to develop affordable rental housing units on the lot in exchange for a reduced lot sale price.
- In July 2022, Lot 335 in Whistle Bend was sold to Council of Yukon First Nations for a nominal amount to build a shelter for Indigenous women and children fleeing violence. Construction is ongoing on this project.
- The Government of Yukon continues discussions with and support for the Northern Community Land Trust model of affordable housing.

Approved by:

_____ _ Date approved

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government continues to invest in rural land development to ensure building lots are available to support growing communities. We collaborate with municipalities, First Nations, and the private sector to help meet this need.
- In the 2024/25 fiscal year, we are planning to invest more than \$6 million in rural land development. This includes lots in Watson Lake, Carmacks, Teslin, Dawson City, Faro, Haines Junction and Mayo. We are increasing the supply of lots in partnership with communities across the territory.
- Overall, over a 5 year period, we plan for between \$18 million and \$23 million in expenditures. Spending on rural land development has increased under this government.
- Investment is dependent on timing of construction in any given year and has been fairly stable at between \$2 to \$6 million dollars invested per year. Year's four and five of the 5-year capital plan are modest forecasts, and actual spending when the time comes tends to increase based on actual construction.
- For example, in 2020/21 we forecasted only up to \$500 thousand in spending on rural land projects in the 2024/25 fiscal year. Now that we are here, there is actually more than \$6m budgeted for rural land projects. The estimates in out years are revised based on real progress with our municipal and First Nation partners.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# LD-05

Spring 2024

Budget Rural Land Development

Community Services

Context:

- The President of the Association of Yukon Communities stated (CBC, March 8) that investment in rural land development had reduced by 85 per cent over four years.

Background:

- In the 2023/24 fiscal year, the department communicated a “scaled decrease” in land development capital budget to better align with historical spending patterns. The key changes made in the 2023/24 fiscal year were based on actual expenditures on rural land in the \$5 to \$6 million range. This has not impacted actual lot delivery, nor planned work with Yukon municipalities and First Nations in rural Yukon.
- Community Service’s Land Development Branch (LDB) works with municipal, First Nation and private sector partners to determine site suitability, plan, design, and construct subdivisions. Energy, Mines and Resources’ Land Management Branch (LMB) takes the lots to market for sale.
- In the 2023/24 fiscal year, the department is on track to utilize its full budget allocated for rural land development.

Rural Land Development Budget & Projects published in past four 5-year Capital Plans:

Predicted spending for each year of the capital plan										
	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2025/26</u>	<u>2026/27</u>	<u>2027/28</u>	<u>2028/29</u>	
Year the capital plan was published	<u>2020/21</u>	5-10m	5-10m	0-500k	0-500k	0-500k				
	<u>2021/22</u>		5-10m	3-4m	3-4m	3-4m	3-4m			
	<u>2022/23</u>			10-15m	10-15m	9-10m	10-15m	7-8m		
	<u>2023/24</u>				6-7m	5-6m	6-7m	2-3m	2-3m	
	<u>2024/25</u>					6-7m	6-7m	2-3m	2-3m	2-3m

See TAB# LD-02 for full summary of development in communities.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# LD-05

Spring 2024

Budget Rural Land Development

Community Services

Approved by:

March 11, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Green Streets**Community Services

Recommended response:

- In 2022, construction on the green streets was paused to hear from residents who offered feedback on some of the design features. The City of Whitehorse then approved an updated design that incorporated feedback from residents.
- The updated design allowed for emergency vehicle winter access, included street grading and paving of a 3-metre pedestrian street, emergency access gates, two additional fire hydrants, and stormwater and drainage catch basins to facilitate drainage of the area.
- In 2023, the Government of Yukon completed the construction of the updated design features, and we are pleased that this work adheres to the original intention of the green street concept.
- The final step is to complete the landscaping of the green streets and the pocket parks. This work was tendered and awarded in summer 2023 and will be completed this summer (2024).

Additional Response:

- Issues of localized flooding on properties can be common across the City of Whitehorse during periods of rapid warming conditions.
- This winter staff reassessed the design of drainage slope, catch basins and culverts in the area and confirmed with engineers that the design is to specification.
- We look forward to the entire project coming to successful conclusion this summer.

Session Briefing Note**Green Streets**Community Services

Context — this may be an issue because:

- A resident contacted the Land Development Branch to indicate water was coming into their basement through a utility corridor.
 - Multiple property owners along the proposed green streets expressed concerns about a six-metre path not meeting the three-metre path concept that was included in earlier lottery packages and referenced in some Phase 4 agreements for sale.
-

Background:

- Green streets are an innovative concept in Whistle Bend, where neighbours can gather, play, and connect to a multi-use trail system free from vehicle traffic.
- Green Streets information included in the land lottery documents for Phases 4 and 5 referenced a three metre-wide hard surface. The Green Street information provided with the lottery information for lots sold in March 2022 (Phase 6A) referenced a six metre-wide paved path.
- Green Streets were marketed as three-metre wide green spaces that would support and add a unique character to the neighbourhood, encourage active transportation and support strong social interaction to nurture a sense of community.
- Green Streets lots in Phases 4 and 5 were already sold when the City of Whitehorse (City) expanded the green street width to six metres from three metres in its detailed design process to allow for emergency vehicle access. Land Development Branch tendered the construction of the green streets in Phase 4 and 5 based on this new direction.
- Surface work and subsequent modifications, including street grading, trail paving, gates, hydrants are now complete. Landscaping of streets and pocket parks was tendered and awarded in summer 2023 and will be completed in summer 2024.
- Guidelines or regulations controlling activities or development such as path access from residences to the green street, laneway parking controls, winter snow clearing are to be determined by the City.

Session Briefing Note**Green Streets**Community Services

- This winter, Community Services staff in the Land Development Branch were contacted by a resident living on Iditarod Lane who experienced water coming through a utility conduit into their basement. Staff assessed the design of catch basins and culverts in the area and confirmed with engineers that the design is to specification and the drainage in the area is built to design. Staff also coordinated with partners at the City and NWtel to further investigate the installation of a utility corridor on private property and we understand the utility provider took action to resolve the issue this winter. To date, no other specific concerns have been reported related to the utility conduit.

Financial Implications:

- Total cost to construct Green Streets including surface construction, modification (incremental cost of moving hydrants to ally to accommodate redesign), and landscaping work is approximately \$1.95 million, which is on budget.
- Subsurface civil work costs were part of the Phase 4 and 5 construction costs.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Community Services

March 20, 2024

Date Approved

Recommended response:

- The Whistle Bend Phase 7 lottery and tender for 130 new lots and 6 re-released lots has been launched.
- The Land Development Branch provides Foundation Design Bulletins for each phase of Whistle Bend. These professional reports are released with each lottery, as a resource to builders and the City of Whitehorse.
- The Phase 7 Foundation Design Bulletin notes that groundwater was not encountered in any test pits or boreholes, and that no water in the pipe trench zone has been observed to date.
- The bulletin does acknowledge that water could be encountered and that builders should be prepared to mitigate if required. Trench plugs - mitigative measures to reduce water conveyance – in the pipe zones have been installed in each phase.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Questions about water conditions were raised in the House.

Background:

- In late summer and fall 2021 water in the pipe zone was encountered by builders working in Whistle Bend Phase 4.
- Yukon government worked with the City of Whitehorse in fall 2022 to design a plan to investigate the source and take mitigative action:
 - In early 2022 the Land Development Branch (LDB) hired Tetra Tech to complete a comprehensive study. In spring and summer 2022, boreholes were installed in the pipe zone and on either side and elsewhere in Whistle Bend. Sampling and testing occurred over numerous events and the study

concluded in spring 2023. The results pointed to the water in the pipe zone being municipal water (likely pipe leaks) or primarily municipal water (possible mix of groundwater and municipal water).

- In Spring 2022, LDB installed a permanent drain and pump at the low spot in the subdivision (near Wyvern lift station). This pump has been running ever since and has helped to lower the water in the pipe zone.
- Trench plugs are installed in the phases to mitigate conveyance of water. If groundwater is encountered during construction of future phases, then we may consider the addition of another drain in another zone to help mitigate water issues, if required.
- The City of Whitehorse was responsible for completing main and service leak testing, and this work started at the end of last year. Service leak testing is time consuming and requires working with homeowners. One small and one larger leak were found, which have been repaired and temporarily repaired, respectively. They will continue their leak testing this spring and summer.
- The leak repairs have noticeably reduced the water flow in the pipe trench.
- Water in the pipe trenches can cause cracks in surface asphalt and concrete, and can be found in pipe trenches elsewhere in the City of Whitehorse.

Approved by:

April 23, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

Date approved

Health Professions Modernization

Community Services

Recommended response:

- Work is underway to revise the *Health Professions Act* and improve how we regulate healthcare service professionals. This multi-year project will ensure a high standard of regulation that responds to Yukon's unique needs and context.
- Regulation helps protect Yukoners by ensuring that health professionals are competent and safe to practice, as well as providing clear processes for dealing with complaints and disciplinary issues.
- Modernizing health professions regulation is in keeping with initiatives across Canada. This will make Yukon an even more attractive place for health professionals to work and allow us provide Yukoners with access to new and innovative ways of accessing health care.

Additional response:

- Community Services is working on regulating psychologists in the Yukon. This is important to support Yukoners' access to safe mental and behavioural health services.

Context:

- This may become an issue because revising the *Health Professionals Act* is a mandate commitment.

Background:

- The Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch manages and supports registrants for 12 health professions and an additional 11 non-health professions totaling approximately 5,700 registrants a year.

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Spring 2024

Health Professions Modernization

Community Services

- Only four of the 12 health professions are regulated under the Health Professions Act, while the others have stand-alone acts.
- The number of registrants varies. For example, denturists, optometrists, chiropractors and midwives each have under 10 registrants, requiring the same support and resource as a larger profession like licensed practical nurses which has 225 registrants.
- Moving professionals to the Health Profession framework is expected to bring more consistency to licensing and related process, improving services to professionals and bringing efficiencies for the regulator.
- Policy and the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch worked with consultants to establish the gaps in the current legislation for regulated health professionals. The report was finalized in the summer of 2022.
- Policy and the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs are beginning the in-depth policy work and determining appropriate engagement plans to determine options for addressing the gaps and improving the regulation of health professionals in the Yukon.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Some Yukoners are facing increasing costs and reduced availability of insurance. The Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch is working with licensed insurers and the Insurance Bureau of Canada to advocate for better options and affordability. The branch also promotes improved consumer awareness of insurance products available in the Yukon.
- Yukon's Superintendent of Insurance is developing public education materials to advise Yukoners about additional insurance protections they should seek for their residential properties for perils such as fire, flood, and earthquake. The materials will also educate about how to reduce risks, mitigate damage, and prevent unnecessary insurance claims.
- Yukon's Superintendent of Insurance is also working on outreach efforts to coincide with the rollout of the Community Service Disaster Financial Assistance Plan and other planning and mitigation efforts across government.

Additional response:

- Yukon's Superintendent of Insurance has prohibited the sale of insurance products that are sold on best terms pricing. Best term pricing allows a number of insurers to cover a portion of a product and the customer is charged the rate of the highest assessed risk. These initiatives are expected to improve the quality and pricing of insurance policies.

Context :

- Recent environmental events, such as floods and forest fires, highlight the need for adequate insurance coverage.
-

Background:

- The Insurance Act and Regulations outlines what is required of a professional or a company including qualifications to practice as well as requirements for conduct and prevention of deceptive or unfair practices. The Insurance Act (Act) also ensures that insurers are financially sound to operate within the territory and standards are in place when issuing insurance policies.
 - Under the authority of the Act, the Superintendent of Insurance, through the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch, issues licenses to insurers (insurance companies) and to intermediaries (insurance agents, brokers, salespeople, etc.) authorizing them to sell insurance in the Yukon.
 - As the regulator, the Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branch can address contraventions of the Act. However, insurance companies, as independent businesses, can decide which products to sell and to whom. As the regulator, the branch has no authority to specify the type or cost of the products that an insurer may offer.
 - The Act and Regulations define and prescribe the classes of insurance that can be sold to customers in the Yukon and general provisions when issuing policies.
 - Condominium insurance rate increases are consistent across Canada and not unique to the Yukon. In December 2020, the British Columbia Financial Services Authority released a report on Strata Property Insurance with the following non-exhaustive list of contributing factors associated to this increase: catastrophe exposure, risk model changes, increasing insured value, building construction, lack of premium increases, persistent low interest rate environment.
 - The Insurance Bureau of Canada released a Condominium/Strata Action Plan which supports condo corporations by providing access to a risk manager to
-

increase awareness around how insurers view risks, evaluate properties and how claims history, building materials and location can affect insurance rates.

- Flood insurance is optional coverage a policy holder can opt in for. Most residential properties are insured for flooding due to sewer backup or burst lines but not for overland flooding due to rising water levels. Areas deemed a 'high risk' by insurers, which are regions that have a historic record of flooding, are not eligible to apply for this additional coverage and pose a challenge to those living there.
- Residential property insurance covers all fire related damage, including forest fires. Unlike flood insurance, fire insurance is typically not an optional coverage and is included in most residential policies.
- The Insurance Bureau of Canada conducted research regarding flood insurance in the Yukon. The findings demonstrated that in general the Yukon is well within the average for premium costs, coverage and availability. The research determined that while costs in the Yukon are on average with the rest of Canada, Yukoners are less likely to purchase additional flood endorsements. Flood plain mapping is underway across the Yukon.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

Date approved

Recommended response:

- We are in the process of developing regulations for psychologists. To support Yukoners as this work continues, the department has rolled out a public awareness webpage on how to select a psychologist. This site includes a voluntary list of psychologists practicing in Yukon indicating who hold a valid license in another Canadian jurisdiction.
- Longer-term, the department is leading a comprehensive review of the *Health Professions Act*. The intent is to enhance standards and safety of health care for Yukoners and improve the overall efficiencies for the regulatory system.
- The regulation of health professionals touches on many concerns common to Yukoners, including the importance of access to quality mental health services. This regulation is a step to ensuring that psychological services are provided by experienced, qualified, credentialed practitioners.

Additional response:

- We want to thank all the psychologists who provided feedback on the policy work and to those who have added their names to the voluntary list. We appreciate their willingness to work with us and their ongoing support as we proceed to regulation.

Context:

- Yukon is the last jurisdiction to regulate psychologists and the government committed to regulating the profession in the Speech from the Throne, May 2021.
- As of January 16, 2024, there are 25 psychologists on the voluntary list.

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TAB# PLRA-03

Spring 2024

Psychologists

Community Services

Background:

- The Government of Yukon committed to regulating psychologists before modernization of the Health Professions Act is complete.
- The regulations are to be completed in 2024.
- Community Services Policy and Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs branches are working with local psychologists and regulators across Canada to develop the Regulation in a short timeline. Work is also underway on a Privacy Impact Assessment.
- Amendments and more complex considerations will be included in the larger Health Professions Act overhaul.
- Improving the way in which health professions are regulated under the *Health Professions Act* is a multi-year project. Regulation of health professions helps Yukoners receive services from competent professionals who practice according to the high standards and ethics of their profession. It also provides Yukoners with clear means and processes for dealing with complaints and disciplinary issues.
- Both Nunavut and Northwest Territories have territorial legislation in place requiring that psychologists be licensed by the territorial government to practice.
- Classes of psychologists vary across Canada, with some having different classes for school psychologists and for masters vs PhD education.
- The majority of psychologists currently practicing in the Yukon hold a master's level education and are licensed in Alberta.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Health Human Resources**Health and Social
Services

Government priority:

- The Government of Yukon remains committed to building healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities using a person-centered approach to wellness to help Yukoners thrive.

Key messages:

- Health Human Resources presents one of the greatest challenges facing Canadian healthcare systems today.
- Domestically and globally, we are facing unprecedented challenges in retaining, recruiting and training enough healthcare workers to meet demand.
- These challenges have been further exacerbated by COVID-19, and both a growing and aging population.
- These impacts are being felt here in the Yukon, and we recognize the seriousness of these shortages. Our comprehensive Health Human Resource Strategy was released on December 13, 2023.
- This intersectoral strategy was developed by a newly created Health Human Resources Steering Committee jointly led by the Department of Health and Social Services and the Yukon Hospital Corporation.
- We are also working closely with federal, provincial, and territorial government partners to respond to this situation.

Key facts:

- We have budgeted **\$2.8M** (\$2,829,618) during the 2024-25 fiscal year for the implementation of the Health Human Resources Strategy. This includes funding to support the following initiatives:
 - **\$1.5M** (\$1,488,025) for staffing, including salary support for Licensed Practical Nurses bridging to Registered Nurses.

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Services

- **\$321K** (\$321,593) for consulting including a physician recruiter for the Yukon Medical Association and a Policy Analyst at Yukon University.
- **\$580K** (\$580,000) for Yukon University programming including the Social Worker Degree program and the Medical Office Assistant Diploma program.
- **\$340K** (\$340,000) for travel and health professional development including nurse training and support for Indian nursing students.
- **\$100K** (\$100,000) for a Pan-Territorial Health Conference.
- As of January 2024, Community Nursing had a vacancy rate of approximately 15% for Primary Health Care Nurses, compared to a vacancy rate of 32.5% in July of 2023 and 40% in December 2022.
 - Prior to COVID-19, the vacancy rate amongst Primary Health Care Nurses was approximately 5%.
- Between January 2023 and February 29, 2024, the department of Health and Social Services has hired 198 nursing positions, including 53 Licensed Practical Nurses and 145 Registered Nurses.
- On December 1, 2022, we announced a **\$6M** package of retention and signing bonuses for nurses employed by the Government of Yukon. The Yukon Hospital corporation are offering similar bonuses totalling **\$3.1M** in 2023-24 and **\$2.4M** in 2024-25.
- Our government provides funding to the Yukon Medical Association for a Physician Recruiter position to support work to recruit locum and resident physicians to the territory.
- The Government of Yukon has entered into a \$3.6 million agreement with Canada to fund a four-year program to streamline the entry of foreign-trained health care professionals into Yukon jobs.

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Services**Health Human Resources Strategy:**

- The Yukon Health Human Resources Strategy was released in December of 2023.
- The Strategy provides a systemic, coordinated and informed roadmap towards a health and social services system that will meet Yukoners' current and future needs.
 - The Strategy builds on existing progress in the Yukon's health and social service sectors and includes key metrics to track progress and success, which will be reported publicly.
- The Strategy is built on five key pillars which aim to boost the delivery of quality care and services and attract more health professionals to live and work in the Yukon.
 - Retain: Build and support skilled, passionate, healthy, diverse and inclusive teams.
 - Recruit: Grow and attract a passionate, engaged and qualified workforce reflective of the needs of Yukoners.
 - Plan: Collect the right data to support long-term workforce planning, identify gaps and make evidence-based decisions.
 - Innovate: Promote and implement new ways of working and learning.
 - Learn: Create more growth, training and educational opportunities for Yukoners to learn locally.
- Within these pillars are 25 actions to be implemented jointly over the next three years by the Government of Yukon and the Yukon Hospital Corporation, in partnership with the HHR Steering Committee.
- The \$2.8M we have budgeted for 2024-25 will support work on immediate priorities and allow us to move forward with key elements of the strategy, including training and education opportunities, recruiting

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Services

and retention initiatives and developing supports for internationally educated health professionals to practice in the Yukon.

- Additional funding for long-term initiatives will be made available through future budgetary processes as the strategy is implemented.

Department of National Defence's Canadian Forces Health Services:

- The Government of Yukon, with the support of the Yukon Hospital Corporation, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of National Defence that welcomes health professionals from the Department of National Defence's Canadian Forces Health Services Group to work in Yukon health care settings to maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills between their deployments.
- Through this partnership, Canadian Forces Health Services nurses and other regulated health professionals will visit the Yukon to learn, advance and share their expertise while enhancing our health care service across the territory.
- Lengths of visits will depend upon placements for a few weeks to months at a time and the number of health professionals participating will depend on availability and interest.
- This partnership is part of the effort to implement the Government of Yukon's Health Human Resources Strategy.
- We anticipate the Canadian Forces Health Services registered nurses to start in Yukon hospitals in late April through this partnership.

Health Human Resource Steering Committee:

- The Health Human Resources Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from Yukon Medical Association, Yukon Registered

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Services

Nurses Association, the Yukon Employees Union, the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, Yukon University, First Nations, Yukon Hospital Corporation and several government departments.

- The Committee is looking at all aspects of Health Human Resources including retention, recruitment, planning, learning and innovation. They are also working to help coordinate, support and influence Health Human Resource work underway in their respective organizations so that it aligns with the Committee's recommendations and priorities.
- There are working groups and staff focusing on recruitment, engagement and retention, housing, licensing, internationally educated health professional integration, data and planning, training and emerging positions.
- The work of this committee aligns with the ongoing collaborative efforts of Federal, Provincial, and Territorial governments, which are supported by recent federal investments that identify health human resources as a shared priority.

Retention Bonuses:

- The retention and recruitment bonuses were implemented on December 1, 2022 and continue through March 31, 2024. Bonuses are being provided to Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Licensed Practical Nurse, who are in a position requiring a nursing designation and performing nursing duties for the Government of Yukon.
- Government of Yukon and the Public Service Alliance of Canada/Yukon Employees' Union ratified a new collective agreement on June 6, 2023, that is in effect until December 31, 2024.

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Services

- The new collective agreement contains new nurse pay grids as well as a new retention allowance, effective April 1, 2024, for a Primary Health Care Nurse \$8,000 and Primary Health Care Nurse in Charge \$18,000.
- The government of Yukon committed \$3.1 million for retention bonuses in 2023-24 and \$2.4 million in 2024-25.
- As of December 8, 2023, Yukon Hospital Corporation began issuing retention and recruitment bonuses to their nursing staff. These bonus packages mimic those offered by the Government of Yukon.

Manager nursing bonuses:

- Nurse retention and recruitment incentives have been provided to both union and manager positions that require a nursing designation.
- The manager incentives mirror that of the Letter of Agreement signed by the union on November 30, 2022, for the immediate and annual retention bonus portion.
- The Letter of Agreement that outlined these bonuses covered the period from Dec 1, 2022 to March 31, 2024.
- All incentives associated with these nursing bonuses are now concluded.
- 23 manager positions received:
 - immediate retention payment of \$8,000 for licensed practical nurses and \$15,000 for registered nurses; and
 - an annual retention payment of \$8,000 for licensed practical nurses and \$15,000 for registered nurses.

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Education:

- In partnership with the Departments of Education and Economic Development, we are working with Yukon University to expand programming to support Yukoners to pursue health-related careers.
- The Government of Yukon funds Yukon University to offer a Practical Nurse Diploma.
- Yukon University offers, in partnership with the University of Regina, a Bachelor of Social Work degree. We are working with Yukon University to enhance this program to better meet the needs of Yukon and deliver a more locally based degree.
- Yukon University offers a Health Care Assistant program which provides Yukoners with the skills needed to be front-line caregivers.
- Continuing Care has supported 5 staff in moving from Nursing Home Attendants into Licensed Practical Nurse or Registered Nurse positions.
- We will be working with Yukon University to offer a Medical Office Assistant program.
 - More Medical Office Assistants will lower the administrative burden on all health professionals.
- We are working with Yukon University to explore bridging program options where Licensed Practical Nurses can attain a Registered Nursing degree.

Bursaries:

- We will work to expand programs aimed at supporting students pursuing studies in health care fields and who commit to return to work in the Yukon.

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- Our government currently provides funding for the Medical Education Bursary, the Nursing Education Bursary, and the Health Profession Education Bursary programs.
- Consistent with the recently released HHR strategy, these programs are under review to ensure that they meet current needs and objectives.
- During the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Department of Health and Social Services has budgeted **\$89K** (\$89,000) through the Medical Education Bursary, the Nursing Education Bursary, and the Health Profession Education Bursary programs to provide financial supports for up to 16 new recipients each year.
- In 2023-24, a total of 16 Yukoners received bursaries for studies in the healthcare field.
 - **\$30,000** went to 6 students pursuing nursing education;
 - **\$7,500** went to 1 medical student pursuing a family medicine residency; and,
 - **\$27,500** went to 9 students in other health care professions including 3 students pursuing licensed practical nursing and 2 in nurse practitioner programs.
- Currently, our bursary programs do not include a Return of Service Agreement that requires graduates to return to the Yukon to deliver care.
- Our government is working to expand our programs to create greater incentives for students to return to work in the Yukon.
- Yukon residents studying medicine or intending to study medicine can apply to other funding programs administered by the Canadian Medical Foundation, the First Nations Health Program at Whitehorse General Hospital, and the Yukon Foundation.
- The Government of Canada is offering a student loan forgiveness program for doctors and nurses who reside in a community with a

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population of 50,000 or less to entice more doctors and nurses to rural communities.

Internationally Educated Health Professionals:

- Internationally educated health professionals have historically played an important role in the delivery of health care in Canada. We recognize that leveraging their expertise is a priority for all governments across Canada.
- As part of our response to health human resource challenges, we are exploring ways to better support internationally educated health professionals to enter health professions in the Yukon.
- We are working with regulators and our federal, provincial and territorial partners to discuss physician licensing and pathways to licensing physicians, including internally educated physicians.
- Internationally educated health professionals who are underemployed and living in the Yukon can contact HHR@yukon.ca to connect with a team who are collecting information on how best to support them.
- In 2023, we hired 15 internationally educated professionals into Nursing Home Attendant positions.

Foreign Credential Recognition Program:

- The Government of Yukon has entered in to a \$3.6M (\$3,600,000) funding agreement with the Government of Canada to deliver a four-year pilot project called the Foreign Credential Recognition Program.
- The program aims to strengthen and streamline pathways for internationally educated health professionals to enter Yukon's health and social services workforce.
 - This project is expected to run from March 2024 to January 2028.

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- This program will be jointly led by Health and Social Services and Economic Development.

India Internationally Educated Health Professional Recruitment

- Health and Social Services is working with the department of Economic Development on strategies for effective recruitment of internationally educated health professionals.
- We are finalizing an arrangement with the University of New Brunswick to add 15 nursing seats a year to their program with Manipal University in India.
- Students in this program would do practicum work in the Yukon and graduate with full accreditation and practical and cultural experience to work in the Yukon afterward.
- The Department of Health and Social Services has engaged in positive meetings with Apollo Health, which is the largest private health care provider in India.
- Apollo presents many promising opportunities for recruitment, education and technology support for the Yukon.
- Our primary focus is piloting a recruitment pathway for nurses, initially with the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

Licensing:

- We understand that it is vital that Yukoners have access to primary health care. The Registrar of Medical Practitioners actively participates in national and cross-jurisdictional organizations and initiatives aimed at harmonizing and streamlining licensing pathways.

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Services

- We recognize that nurses are fundamental to a high-functioning health care system. We are working with the Yukon Registered Nurses Association to find ways to streamline licensing for registered nurses.
- Our goal is to minimize any administrative burden that draws resources away from care while at the same time ensuring that health professionals are appropriately regulated, and Yukoners have access to safe, high-quality health care.

Letter of Intent with Nova Scotia:

- On July 26, 2023, our government signed a Letter of Intent with the Government of Nova Scotia to work collaboratively on Health Human Resources.
- Nova Scotia has adopted innovative strategies to create new opportunities to address recruitment and retention.
- Officials from both jurisdictions have developed a comprehensive set of issues on which to partner and share information.
- Meetings continue with a working level delegation to identify topics for an in-person meeting in Nova Scotia in the coming months.

Physician Assistants:

- Physician Assistants are healthcare professionals who work in collaboration with physicians and other healthcare providers under the supervision of licensed physicians.
- There are no Physician Assistants practicing in the Yukon and at present they are not regulated to do so.
 - Physician Assistants currently practice in the public healthcare system in Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Ontario and Nova Scotia and are primarily regulated via the respective provincial

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Health Human Resources**Health and Social
Services

College of Physicians and Surgeons. Newfoundland, Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island are advancing work to incorporate Physician Assistants into their own healthcare systems.

- Through the Health Human Resources Steering Committee, we will continue to work with our health system partners to determine the potential for integrating Physician Assistants into the Yukon's health care system.
- A Physician Assistant's scope of practice varies across Canada. A physician assistant can perform many assessments and skills under the delegation of a physician.
- Typically, they conduct patient assessments, order and interpret tests, create treatments plans, prescribe medications, assist in surgical procedures and order and perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services

[Date approved]

Recommended response:

- The health human resources crisis has underscored the need for efficient and effective professional licensing processes. This is a fast-changing landscape and to attract the best talent, we need modern, nimble legislation. This will provide for better access to care, as well as support recruitment and retention of nurses in the territory.
- In the Fall 2023, we amended the *Registered Nurses Profession Act* to enable changes to the regulations regarding licensing and removed the concept of a temporary permit. Amendments to the *Medical Profession Act* and *Licensed Practical Nurses Act* are required to align with the removal of temporary permits. These amendments will be included in the Miscellaneous Statute in Spring 2024.
- The upcoming Registered Nurse Profession Regulation amendments are focused on the pathways to licensure, the classes of registration and expanding the prescribing powers of Nurse Practitioners. Importantly, the amendments allow for interim licensing for internationally educated nurses.
- While we look for the best ways to license nurses, we continue to work towards revising the *Health Professions Act* to improve how we regulate all healthcare professionals in the Yukon.

Context:

- The Health Human Resource crisis has identified the need for new licensing pathways and classes of licence for nurses. Specifically, there is a need for nurses to be able to apply directly to the Yukon and not through another jurisdiction.
-

Session Briefing Note

TAB# PLRA-05

Spring 2024

Registered Nurses Profession Regulations

Community Services

Background:

- The Yukon Registered Nurses Association (YRNA) regulates Registered Nurses (RNs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in the Yukon, under the authority of the Registered Nurses Profession Act and Registered Nurses Profession Regulation.
- In accordance with the Act, the YRNA Board has the authority to propose regulations that are not inconsistent with the Act, subject to Cabinet approval.
- YRNA has identified issues with its regulatory framework for RNs and NPs and requested changes to regulate these professions more effectively and worked with Professional Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and the policy group to address as many of the changes as possible.
- The amendments approved to the Registered Nurses Profession Act during the Fall 2023 session provide increased flexibility regarding the length of a licence, the ability to enter into multijurisdictional agreements, clarity regarding information on the public register, and transitional provisions.
- References to Registered Nurse permits were discovered in the *Medical Profession Act* and the *Licensed Practical Nurses Act*. Removing the reference in both Acts is included in the Miscellaneous Statute coming forward in the Spring of 2024.
- The regulation drafting instructions are with the legislative council office and drafting is well underway. Draft regulations will be shared with YRNA for final review prior to submission to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation in 2024.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

Date approved

Property Assessment in Municipalities 2023

Community Services

Recommended response:

- Yukon properties are reassessed on a two-year cycle, alternating between municipalities and rural Yukon. Municipal properties were reassessed in 2023 for the 2024 tax year and most municipal properties did receive assessment increases for 2023.
- By completing reassessments every two years, the assessors help to avoid larger changes that could occur if assessments were done less frequently.
- The Property Assessment and Taxation branch is committed to a system that keeps values current, accurate and equitable for Yukon property owners and municipalities.
- Their work supports fair and transparent avenues for Yukoners to raise concerns about their own property assessment. There is a review process available to any property owner who does not agree with the value determined by the assessor.

Context:

- Property owners, including First Nations, may be concerned about the impact of 2023 municipal reassessment.

Background:

- As part of the reassessment cycle, the fair value of land is reviewed and any changes in value noted from market evidence may lead to a change in land value.
- The replacement cost (cost to build) of improvements is also reviewed and any changes noted in building costs from the time of the last reassessment may necessitate a change in improvement (building assessment) value. This is why in some instances, while a property owner may not have done anything to improve or change their property, they may still realize a change in assessed value.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# PAT-01

Spring 2024

Property Assessment in Municipalities 2023

Community Services

- The real estate market and new construction in and around Whitehorse continues to be active, which means that property values often increase. Property values vary depending on type and location of property.
- The Property Assessment & Taxation Branch is responsible for keeping values current, accurate and equitable for property tax purposes. A reassessment is an updating of land and improvement (buildings) values. Land value (fair market value) + Improvement value (replacement cost less depreciation) = Assessed value.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The amendments to the *Assessment and Taxation Act* and Regulations for the Better Buildings Program were proclaimed on October 20, 2022.
- The Better Buildings Program offers low-cost funding to eligible property owners to complete energy-efficiency retrofits. This means more property owners will have the means to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint. The funding is repayable by a local improvement charge attached to the property.
- The program has received 58 applications of clients wishing to participate. There are 5 projects currently underway and 2 have been completed.
- We have worked closely with municipal governments as partners in this program and have developed administrative processes to ensure its successful delivery. All municipalities have signed agreements indicating their participation in this program.

Context:

- There is interest in the program & uptake.

Background:

- Eligible properties include property that is subject to a land and improvement tax, is located within a participating municipality or outside of a municipal boundary, has an existing home five years or older, has a mobile home situated on titled land permanently or for a minimum of one year.
- Participating in the Better Buildings Programs also allows for property owners to apply for available energy efficiency grant and rebate programs offered through

Yukon government and the federal government after making energy-efficiency retrofits to their properties.

- This loan program makes funding available to eligible residential and commercial property owners at low-interest rates.
- This program is currently administered by the Energy Branch and the Property Assessment and Taxation Branch.
- The funding is recouped through local improvement taxes paid by the participant on an annual basis.
- The program was announced in the Speech from the Throne in October 2019 and the Minister made a Ministerial Statement on the home retrofit loan program on October 23, 2019.
- This loan program is in addition to current programs at the Yukon Housing Corporation that include the Home Repair Program, and the First Nations Energy Efficiency Program, which is funded through the federal Low Carbon Economy Fund. The Yukon Housing Corporation is also working on energy retrofits to government-owned housing throughout the territory, also funded by the Low Carbon Economy Fund.
- As of January 26th, 2023, Municipal Agreements were completed with all municipalities.
- Since the program launch on October 25, 2022, the Energy Branch has received applications from 58 clients wishing to participate.
- The rapid rise in interest rates has meant a decrease in Property Assessment and Taxation's programs generally. For example, applications for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Program applications are the lowest since the 2019/2020 fiscal year. This is consistent with the interest rate increases from 0.75% in March 2022 to 5.25% in July 2023.
- In addition, inflation has increased the cost of materials and services. The Property Assessment and Taxation branch completes a cost study every two years to determine the replacement cost on improvements. It is based on the consumer price index, recent sale price of homes, cost of materials and other

Session Briefing Note

TAB# PAT-02

Spring 2024

Better Buildings Program

Community Services

factors. Between 2021 and 2023 there was a marked increase in the results of the cost study, meaning it is more expensive to build a new home or improve an existing home.

- Budget was reduced in 2023/24 for the Better Buildings Program to reflect updated forecast of applications and projects anticipated for the current fiscal year.
- All applications received have been reviewed and approved by PAT. Most of our approved applications are sitting pending, waiting on the client to decide whether they are going to commit to the project or not. The following are our pending numbers by community:
 - 36 Whitehorse
 - 3 Dawson
 - 2 Faro
 - 4 Haines Junction
 - 6 rural Yukon not in a municipality
- Six new clients joined the program between July 1, 2023 and February 16, 2024.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

Date approved

Unincorporated Property Tax Rates

Community Services

Recommended response:

- At the request of the Association of Yukon Communities, the Government of Yukon has started to review rural property tax rates. There are several factors to consider in this review, including service levels and affordability.
- In the meantime, unincorporated properties are reassessed every other year. As a result many property owners already see a year-over-year increase in the amount payable.
- This is often because of increased replacement costs and or an increase in land value. Other factors such as property type and location also affect the assessed value of property.
- A formal review of current rates is planned, and we will continue to work closely with the Association of Yukon Communities to ensure tax rates reflect the costs of service delivery.

Context:

- The Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) passed a resolution in 2023 to request Yukon government to review current property taxes in areas peripheral to Yukon municipalities and increase those taxes appropriately.

Background:

- All properties in Yukon are reassessed by assessors through the Property Assessment & Taxation Branch every two years. Property Assessment & Taxation Branch is responsible for keeping values current, accurate and equitable for property tax purposes.
- Yukon municipalities are responsible for the collection of property taxes within their boundaries and set their own tax rates. The Property Assessment & Taxation

Session Briefing Note

TAB# PAT-03

Spring 2024

Unincorporated Property Tax Rates

Community Services

Branch acts as the tax collector for individuals who own property outside of a municipality and sets the tax rates for those residents.

- Tax rates for rural Yukon have not increased since 1988.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Recommended response:

- Public libraries provide equal access to resources and support individuals' freedom to seek information and form their own opinions.
 - Public libraries are also a place where people can enjoy healthy debate. This happened last year when community members raised concerns about a book on display with a "Staff Pick" sticker. This led to a robust dialogue and the library staff worked hard to make sure that everyone was heard. As a result, and to ensure that everyone feels welcome in the library space, the Staff Pick program is under review.
 - Yukon Public Libraries has made and will continue to make efforts to ensure the perspectives of equity-deserving groups are included in the various aspects of the library, including the collection, displays and programming.
-

Context:

- There may be interest in how issues relating to YPL's collection are resolved.
-

Background:

- In spring 2023, a member of the public made a social media posting that was critical of the Yukon Public Libraries (YPL) carrying the book *Irreversible Damages*, by Abigail Shrier at its Whitehorse branch. The posting identified the book as trans-phobic and queried whether it should be available at the library. The photo attached to the posting showed that the book had a "Staff Pick" sticker on its cover.
 - The posting generated further concern in the community and throughout April and May 2023, YPL received requests that the book be removed from its collection. The requests triggered a formal review of the book.
-

- A review of the book was conducted by a committee composed of the Whitehorse Public Library Board and the Director of YPL. The committee found that the book did not violate YPL's standards and was not removed from circulation.
- The decision letters and the public statement were released on June 16, 2023. The timing was well within the estimated 2-3 months for this type of process.
- YPL engaged directly in conversations with Queer Yukon as well as the Gender and Sexuality Alliance of Porter Creek Secondary School on this matter.
- The issue also generated discussion about the "Staff Pick" sticker on the book. In this case, the intention of the recommendation—highlighting a book of interest—did not match the impact it had on some members of the community.
- The practice of "staff picks" is under review and has been paused at the Whitehorse Public Library.

Financial Implications:

- Yukon Public Libraries spends \$160,000 on collection development for physical materials annually.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Recommended response:

- Last fall we eliminated fines for overdue books. This removes an unnecessary barrier to accessing the services that Yukon Public Libraries has to offer.
- As part of maintaining a vibrant and relevant collection that all Yukoners can access, Yukon Public Libraries will only be invoicing for lost or damaged materials on a cost recovery basis going forward. They will refund payments for lost materials returned in good condition.
- Removing overdue fines allows library staff more time to provide valuable services and is a more effective use of the public purse. Administration costs to collect these fines are greater than the value of the fines themselves.

Additional response:

- Yukon Public Libraries is now in line with many other jurisdictions across Canada and the world in making library services in Yukon more accessible, especially to those who need them most.
-

Context:

- Library fees were eliminated by amendment to the *Financial Administration Act* regulation effective September 7, 2023.
-

Background:

- Research has shown that late fees do not encourage library users to return items on time. In addition, late fees disproportionately affect low-income and marginalized populations and act as a barrier to services.
-

Session Briefing Note

TAB# PL-02

Spring 2024

Elimination of Late Fees

Community services

- The pandemic demonstrated that library service was needed more than ever, especially in rural communities.
- Library users who lose or damage materials will still be invoiced for the cost of replacement.
- The Whitehorse Public Library Board advocates for the elimination of late fees

Financial Implications:

- This move means YG will forgo a small amount (less than \$8000 annually) of fees that offset some operational costs.
- Staff hours spent on invoicing late fees and lost or damaged materials is approximately \$25,000 per year (800 hrs/year at the AR-06/09 pay rate).

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Recommended response:

- We are joining other Libraries in Canada and North America in enhancing community safety and support by having a Library Outreach Worker.
- As part of strengthening downtown safety in Whitehorse, the Library Outreach Worker will provide library patrons with access to services and support.
- The library provides an extra point of contact for vulnerable members of the community.
- How the service will look for library users is still being determined, but we are working closely with our colleagues at Health and Social Services so when the library outreach worker does arrive, they begin providing vital services immediately.
- This position will be funded through Yukon Public Libraries with the support of Health and Social Services.

Additional response:

- The library outreach worker, although having a skillset to support vulnerable members of the community, is not a social worker.
- The library has been identified as a space where the library outreach worker will have a wide reach.

Context:

- The implementation of this program/position is anticipated in early 2024.

Background:

- This opportunity emerged from plans to address public safety concerns in downtown Whitehorse.

- Libraries serve many needs within communities, and sometimes the needs go beyond a librarian's training or skill set. An outreach worker will help to support patrons that are interested in a range of support services and will enhance the resiliency of the team. There has been an anecdotal increase in substance-related incidents where staff are having to intervene, either to call for a medical response or to de-escalate a situation.
- Outreach workers will work alongside library staff to provide navigation and social support to patrons with complex needs; including referrals to other services, opportunities for de-escalation safely through redirection, reflection, and listening; and understanding when situations become untenable and other supports e.g. Police are required.
- They will assess situations where library patrons may have difficulty engaging with library services for a variety of reasons to ensure the library is a welcoming and safe place for all patrons.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Recommended response:

- Libraries are vital to our communities, so we recognize this is a disruption for many people. Libraries are a safe space for everyone and this includes the physical space where patrons use the many services offered. We look forward to welcoming people back into the library just as soon as this necessary work is complete.
- The library is closed from March 25th until April 21st for some much-needed renovations. Look forward to new carpets and a better layout when the library opens again.
- Although patrons will not be able to borrow physical books, Yukoners can still enjoy a wide variety of library's e-resources including access to e-books, audiobooks, magazines and music.
- During the closure, internet access and printing services will be available along with snacks, warm drinks in the Cafeteria at the Jim Smith Building. The outreach worker will also be onsite. Library staff can still be reached to assist the public the best they can.

Context:

- Community members, particularly those who rely on the library for day to day internet and printing services as well as a safe warm third space may question where they can access these service during the temporary closure.

Background:

- From March 25 to April 21, 2024, the Whitehorse Public Library will be closed to the public for carpet installation.
- The carpet in the library is old and torn in spots and is due for replacement. While there never is a right time to close the library for building maintenance, the dates were specifically chosen to minimize disruptions. The closure will come after the coldest months of winter have passed and Spring Break has ended.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# PL-04

Spring 2024

Carpet Replacement

Community Services

- During the closure in-person services, like use of the meeting room, loans of physical library materials, programming, and community book requests, will not be available. Online resources, like e-books, research materials, movies, TV shows, music, and audiobooks, will still be available and library staff can be reached by phone and email to assist.
- The library's physical materials, such as books and DVDS, will be kept in storage for the duration of the carpet installation.
- Library staff can be reached during the closure by calling 867-667-8062 or emailing yukonlibraries@yukon.ca.
- Yukon Public Libraries operates 15 libraries throughout the territory.
- If you have library materials in your possession during the closure you can return them in the library book drop or to a community library.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Arctic Winter Games 2026**Community Services

Recommended response:

- It is very exciting that the Arctic Winter Games are returning to the City of Whitehorse. The Yukon government is pleased to be supporting the 2026 Arctic Winter Games Host Society with financial and in-kind contributions of up to \$4.35 million.
 - In addition, the Sport and Recreation branch is already working with the City of Whitehorse, the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, the 2026 Arctic Winter Games Host Society, and territorial sport organizations to ensure a successful and memorable event that showcases the beauty and culture of our territory.
 - The Games will bring immediate benefits for the Yukon and create positive economic and social impacts for the host territory. In addition to the boost to our economy, the Arctic Winter Games strengthen sport development, promote fair play and healthy lifestyles, build partnerships, and promote cultural diversity, awareness and understanding.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue because the public could question the decision to host another major event from a cost priority perspective.
-

Background:

- The Arctic Winter Games (AWG) is a high-profile circumpolar sport competition for northern and arctic athletes, and a multi-cultural exposition for the circumpolar world.
 - Since their inception in 1970 and occurring every 2 years on a rotational basis, the AWG celebrate sport, social exchange, and culture while providing an opportunity for the developing athlete to compete in friendly competition and share cultural values of northern regions of the world.
-

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Arctic Winter Games 2026**Community Services

- The Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC) is made up of representatives from each of the permanent partners (Alberta, Alaska, Greenland, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon) and is responsible for implementing policies and providing leadership to the Games.
- Yukon is pleased to be the host jurisdiction and our capital city, Whitehorse, is the host city. The AWG sought a host jurisdiction for the 2026 Games because of Russia's (Yamal) suspension. The AWGIC sent a formal request to Premier Pillai on May 28, 2023, for the Yukon government (YG), in collaboration with municipal partners, to consider hosting the AWG in 2026.
- While the Yukon was not scheduled to host again until 2032, with the cancellation of the 2020 Arctic Winter Games due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the withdrawal of the 2027 Canada Winter Games Bid, both the City of Whitehorse and sport community have indicated unanimous support to hosting the AWG in 2026.
- A letter of support to host the 2026 Arctic Winter Games was received from Sport Yukon. The letter also indicated unanimous support from the 20 relevant sport governing bodies. Letters of support have also been received from Yukon University, the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, the Yukon Convention Bureau, and the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Whitehorse and the Yukon government will formalize the relationship with respect to collaboration, communication, and roles and responsibilities for the 2026 AWG.
- A host society, comprised of strong leaders in our community will oversee the management of the Games, engaging with key partners and stakeholders throughout the process.
- The pandemic prevented us from hosting the 2020 Arctic Winter Games, but they were projected to contribute approximately \$6.1 million to Canada's GDP, a figure that includes \$5.7 million boost to the Yukon's GDP and a \$4.4 million increase in local Whitehorse GDP.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Arctic Winter Games 2026

Community Services

Financial Implications:

- Based on the preliminary budget put forward by the City of Whitehorse, the Government of Yukon has financially committed to the following
 - \$4M through a transfer payment agreement with the Host Society
 - \$350K in estimated in-kind supports
 - To work with the City of Whitehorse to secure federal funding for the games.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Community Pools**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Plans are in place to open seven Yukon community pools for the 2024 season. This includes the new pool in Pelly Crossing that opened for the 2023 summer season.
 - The Sport and Recreation branch coordinates with communities and local First Nations on recruitment and training of seasonal staff. Local governments hire specialized pool managers to run their aquatics programs.
 - The Sport & Recreation Branch, in partnership with the Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon will be hosting a Spring Aquatics Workshop in May, to develop knowledge and skills around safe pool operations, lifesaving certification and aquatics programming.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue because the pools in Ross River and Beaver Creek have not opened for several years due to required repairs and staffing shortages.
-

Background:

- Municipal pools in Dawson City, Watson Lake, Faro and Mayo are owned and operated by the municipality. Pools in Haines Junction and Carmacks are permanently closed and the municipalities are considering their options.
 - Pools in Pelly Crossing, Carcross, Ross River, and Beaver Creek are owned by the Government of Yukon.
 - Pelly's pool was funded through the Government of Canada's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (\$5.25M) and the Government of Yukon (\$4.566M).
 - The operation and maintenance of each Yukon government pool is a joint responsibility between Community Services, Property Management Division and the Local Authority for Recreation.
-

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Community Pools**Community Services

- Pool closures due to COVID-19 impacted long-term availability of lifeguards and pool managers across Canada.

Pool condition challenges

- It is a challenge to recruit qualified operators and lifeguards given our operating season and a national lifeguard shortage.
- Structural issues with the Government of Yukon seasonal pools were first identified in 2017.
- In July 2019, a study undertaken by Environmental Health Services identified design deficiencies in the facilities when compared to current standards of construction and design. Based on this report, the designated health officer issued an order to keep pools closed pending required repairs.
- The pool in Beaver Creek was last opened in 2018. Water is accumulating under the pool liner and a hydrogeological assessment of the soil is required to determine where the water is coming from and if it is impacting the septic system. Once this work is complete, an assessment of the circulation systems will be required, and repairs identified in the 2018 Stantec report will then be addressed. This work is being planned.
- The Ross River pool was last operational in the 2017 season. Constructed in 1999, the facility has significant foundation issues that could affect its continued operation.
- Ross River pool was anticipated to open in 2023 following completion of critical repairs to the pool systems; however, additional areas of concerns were identified in the repair process preventing its opening. The department is currently working to determine how we can address the 2023 building assessment findings.
- Sport and Recreation will be working with the Ross River Recreation Society and the community of Faro to create opportunities for community members from Ross River to access the Faro pool.
- Critical repairs were completed at the pool in Carcross in 2021, and the community experienced another successful aquatics season in 2023.

Session Briefing Note
Community Pools

TAB SR-02
Spring 2024
Community Services

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Safe Sport**Community Services

Recommended response:

- Safety in sport has an impact on everyone, and we are committed to creating a positive culture that prioritizes respectful sport experiences that are safe for everyone.
- We recognize the importance of implementing safe sport policies and procedures and are currently working on developing a Safe Sport Framework for the Yukon.
- Safety in sport is a key priority across Canada and all jurisdictions are working towards ensuring processes are in place for reporting incidents of maltreatment in sport. We are committed to working with our sport and recreation organizations to protect athletes from all forms of maltreatment.

Additional response:

- The Yukon engaged with the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada to use the complaint management services of the Office of the Sport Integrity Commission for the 2022 Canada Summer Games, 2023 Canada Winter Games and the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.
- Team Yukon participants attending the 2024 Arctic Winter Games were required to take the Safe Sport training module offered through the Coaching Association of Canada.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest to know what the Yukon government is doing to address maltreatment in sport.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Safe Sport**Community Services

Background:

- At the 2019 Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Ministers Conference, Ministers endorsed the Red Deer Declaration for the Prevention of Harassment, Abuse, and Discrimination in Sport, committing to implementing a collaborative intergovernmental approach, with better harmonized commitments, mechanisms, principles, and actions to address harassment, abuse and discrimination in sport in the areas of awareness, policy, prevention, reporting, management, and monitoring. Ministers also agreed to a series of actions to be implemented by 2021.
- In 2019, Sport Canada supported the development of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent, and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS). It includes general principles, definitions of maltreatment, prohibited behaviours, and an approach to sanctions.
- The Government of Canada requires that federally funded national-level sport organizations adopt or integrate the UCCMS into their organizational policies and procedures as a condition of funding.
- In February 2023, F-P/T Ministers responsible for sport, physical activity, and recreation agreed to work together to have all athletes and participants in Canada protected by an independent third-party mechanism. Yukon and other jurisdictions are working toward this and are currently considering the cost, procurement methods and legislative framework.
- A F-P/T Maltreatment in Sport Working Group was established to identify guiding principles and /or develop recommendations to support jurisdictions in the establishment of independent third-party mechanisms, to remain informed of ongoing work of other sector initiatives and to provide a forum for the sharing of best practices and key learnings from safe sport efforts across the country.

Session Briefing Note
Safe Sport

TAB SR- 03
Spring 2024
Community Services

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Inventory

Community Services

Recommended response:

- The Sport and Recreation branch ensures Yukoners have access to the facilities and opportunities they need to live healthy, active lifestyles.
- The branch is conducting a survey that has been distributed to all communities and First Nation organizations to gather updated information on facilities and obtain new data on items such as trails and parks.
- The survey will provide an updated inventory and general condition of sport and recreation infrastructure assets owned by the various levels of governments, First Nation organizations, and communities.
- The information will help develop sport and recreation opportunities in the Yukon and will help us understand sport infrastructure needs and opportunities to partner as our population continues to grow.

Context:

- This was identified as a priority in the March 2, 2023, mandate letter.

Background:

- Mandate (March 2023) - Work with all levels of government, including First Nations and municipalities, to understand future sport infrastructure needs and look at opportunities to partner as our population continues to grow.
- The Sport & Recreation Branch has an inventory of sport and recreation infrastructure in the Yukon however, it is out of date.
- The survey, which was distributed to all communities and First Nations organizations, will provide useful information on the inventory and general

Session Briefing Note

TAB# SR-04

Spring 2024

Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Inventory

Community Services

condition of sport and recreation infrastructure assets owned by the various levels of governments, First Nation organizations and communities.

- The data gathered through this survey will provide insights into the quantity and current state of sport and recreation facilities in the Yukon. This information will empower all levels of government and organizations to inform their asset management plans.
- As a next step, Community Services will consider recreation service level standards for communities. The outcome of the survey will provide important consideration for creating and updating these standards.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon contributed \$585,000 to support Team Yukon's attendance at the 2024 Arctic Winter Games.
- In addition, the Yukon Government provides \$35,000 to Sport Yukon to administer the in-territory travel fund which helps support rural travel for all individuals to attend AWG Trails and travel required for those that have made the team.
- Sport Yukon also administers the Major Games participation fund which covers participation fees for those participants from outside of Whitehorse.

Context:

- A rural Dene Games athlete raised concern over the lack of support received to participate in the Arctic Winter Games.
-

Background:

- Yukon Sport Governing Bodies are responsible for hosting Team Trials to select participants for the Arctic Winter Games. YSGB are also responsible for developing a training plan.
- Every member of Team Yukon is entitled to receive the benefits and privileges that come with being chosen to represent and support Team Yukon at the 2024 Arctic Winter Games.
- The Government of Yukon's Sport and Recreation Branch works with the Yukon Sport Governing Bodies (YSGB) to ensure eligible athletes have equal access to attend trials for the Arctic Winter Games.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# SR-05

Spring 2024

AWG Rural Athlete Support

Community Services

- The Sport and Recreation Branch's, Yukon sport governing bodies, and Athletes all have role and responsibilities outlined in the Team Yukon Handbook.

Approved by:

March 19, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The First Nations Initial Attack firefighting is a key component of the Wildland Fire Management program. The Government of Yukon and First Nations crews work side by side on the fire line and all are provided with the same level of training and type of equipment including personal protective equipment.
- The Government of Yukon has renewed agreements with all 14 First Nations for the Wildland Fire Management Initial Attack Program. This includes five government-to-government agreements and nine agreements administered by Yukon First Nation Wildfire Limited Partnership.
- I want to thank Yukon First Nation Fire who also provides unit crew for the program. Our collective efforts are helping to safeguard our communities and build resilience.

Context:

- There is a lot of public interest in fire management, and partnerships with Yukon First Nations in wildland fire management.

Background:

- The program consists of 10 Yukon government crews and 14 First Nations crews located in six fire centers across the territory.
- In 2023, nine of 14 First Nations or their Development Corporations assigned the administration of their initial attack crew contracts to Yukon First Nations Wildfire Limited Partnership. This supports local employment, capacity building and economic development. The remaining five contracts are bilateral with the Wildland Fire Management Branch.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# WFM-01

Spring 2024

Yukon First Nations Partnership

Community Services

Financial Implications:

- In 2024, approximately \$2.2 million is allocated for Yukon First Nations initial attack firefighter crew services.
- This number increased is a result of inflation rates, supply chain challenges, ongoing negotiations for a new collective agreement (associated wage rate increases) and increased costs for vehicles and fuel.
- In 2023, the Yukon government provided \$50,000 to Yukon First Nations Wildfire Limited Partnership for the Beat the Heat boot camp, and in-kind contributions to the program in staff time and training resources.
- In 2023, Yukon government provided more than \$900,000 in contracts and \$125,000 in transfer payment agreements under the Unit Crew Services Agreement.
- In 2023, up to \$400,000 was available to Yukon First Nations Wildfire for the guaranteed work portion of the Unit Crew Services Agreement.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

Date approved

Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

Community Services

Recommended response:

- Wildland Fire Management is taking proactive measures to limit the impact of wildfires by managing fuel through forest thinning, conversion of coniferous stands to deciduous stands, and prescribed burning.
- The branch also promotes wildland fire prevention through education campaigns to reduce human-caused fire ignition and help property owners protect their homes from wildfire risk.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans offer a road map for reducing community fire risk through forest fuel treatments and community FireSmart projects.

Additional response:

- Wildland Fire Management also works to develop landscape-scale projects such as the Whitehorse South Fuel Break.
- The Whitehorse South Fuel Break is a partnership with the City of Whitehorse for fuel management in 395 hectares of forest.
- To date, 302 hectares have been worked. Wildland Fire Management expects to finish the Copper Haul Road Fuel Break in fall 2024 and the Mary Lake Shaded Fuel Break portion in fall 2026.

Context:

- The public remains concerned about the threat of wildfire to their communities.

Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

Community Services

Background:

- Draft Community Wildfire Protection Plans are nearing completion for the Village of Mayo, the Town of Faro, Dawson City, as well as the communities of Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay together. These plans will be presented for engagement with the community and First Nations in 2024.
- Through the FireSmart funding program, community groups can receive funding for local wildfire hazard reduction projects. In 2023/24, the Yukon government in partnership with the Government of Canada is investing a total of \$1.25 million in 39 projects.
- This total includes providing \$850,000 for FireSmart projects, with an additional \$400,000 to First Nation communities, following a contribution from Indigenous Services Canada's Emergency Management Assistance Program.
- The Whitehorse South Fuel Break is a 395-hectare piece of strategic wildfire-resistant infrastructure. It is partially funded by the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. It is expected to be completed in 2026 and includes manual treatments, mechanical treatments, prescribed burns and planting of aspen trees. 170,000 aspen seedlings have been planted in fuel treatment areas around Whitehorse and Haines Junction to further improve the resilience of our forests and communities.
- The Copper Haul Road North Fuel Break project was successfully screened through YESAB in 2022. This 200-hectare project will create defensible space for firefighters to work safely and effectively along the Copper Haul Road from the Mt. Sima Bridge in the south to the McLean Lake Quarries in the north.
- Wildland Fire Management is leading Yukon government's participation in Canada's 2 Billion Trees program, which will provide \$747,000 in federal funding between 2023-24 and 2025-26. Planning is currently underway to plant up to 400,000 aspen seedlings in strategic fuel breaks around Whitehorse and Haines Junction by 2026.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# WFM-02

Spring 2024

Wildland Fire Planning and Prevention

Community Services

- Wildland Fire Management works with the Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, Highways and Public Works, Economic Development and Environment to make the best use of wood salvaged from forest fuel treatment areas.

Financial Implications:

- In 2023-24, the Yukon government in partnership with the Government of Canada is investing \$1.25 million for FireSmart projects (\$850,000 for territorial FireSmart projects, with an additional \$400,000 specifically for First Nation communities)
- This year Wildland Fire Management budgeted a further \$1.7 million for landscape-level fuel treatments and supporting activities such as road maintenance, consultants etc.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

Date approved

2024 Wildfire Season Preparation

Community Services

Recommended response:

- 2023 was the most severe wildfire season in Canadian history. Wildland Fire Management is actively preparing for the upcoming 2024 season.
- Recruitment begins in the Fall and continues into the new year to have crews on strength by fire season, which begins in April. New staff undergo a rigorous training and certification process before becoming qualified crew members or crew leaders.
- This year, when fully staffed, there are 28 wildfire crews, composed of 14 Yukon government and 14 Yukon First Nations crews. We look forward to working with Yukon First Nation Fire as a partner again in the upcoming season, offering a Unit Crew and representation for several of the Initial Attack agreements.
- In addition to hiring personnel, Wildland Fire Management prepares for the coming season by restocking and refurbishing equipment. This includes procurement of consumable goods, wildfire fighting equipment and replacement or maintenance of specialized vehicles.

Additional response:

- Innovative recruitment campaigns are helping to ensure that the number and quality of candidates provides the best possible outcome for preparedness and response.
- Newly hired crew members must pass a fitness test and complete two weeks of intensive training prior to being able to attend a wildfire incident.

2024 Wildfire Season Preparation

Community Services

- Crew Leaders have spent multiple years and considerable hours on the fireline. They direct crews once they reach the required number of required hours, types of training and experience level to adequately supervise this dangerous, stressful and physically demanding work.
-

Context:

- The public may have interest in Wildland Fire Management (WFM) activities in 2024.
-

Background:

- Yukon has 75 initial attack firefighters in regional bases across the Yukon and another 40 staff managing crews and aircraft, leading prevention programs, and providing logistical support.
 - When fully staffed, there is a maximum of 28 wildfire crews, which is comprised of 14 Yukon government and 14 Yukon First Nations crews. The 2023 season saw 5 of these contracts unfilled and single resources were joined together to maximize response capacity.
 - The 2023 season of extreme wildfire activity showed the need for strong public fire information. An expanded fire map was launched in July to help people better understand the Yukon's fire situation while also learning more about fire activity in a given area.
 - WFM prepares for the fire season by having resources in place ready to respond to incidents as required. During the season, WFM's meteorologist and fire behavior specialists actively monitor current and short-term forecast weather to ensure appropriate response to fires.
 - In addition to hiring personnel, Wildland Fire Management prepares for the coming season by restocking and refurbishing equipment over the winter months. This includes procurement of consumable goods, wildfire fighting equipment and replacement or maintenance of specialized vehicles.
-

Session Briefing Note

TAB# WFM-03

Spring 2024

2024 Wildfire Season Preparation

Community Services

Financial Implications:

- Over the past five years, total WFM expenditure has ranged from \$18 million (2020/21) to \$40 million (2019/20), and is typically updated through Supplementary Budgets where required.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Wildland Fire has a number of methods to respond to wildfires in the Yukon, including ground and air response. Planning, preparation and training for this work takes place all year long, including tendering for supplies and services.
- Community Services works with Highways and Public Works to ensure contracts are in place for the necessary equipment and services for the upcoming fire season.
- This year there were two successful bidders for the air tanker tenders, one for the “light” air tanker group and one for the “heavy” air tanker group.
- Wildland Fire Management has contingency plans should circumstances change. Wildland Fire Management’s first priority is always the safety of Yukoners.

Context:

- Wildland Fire Management has been notified of potential concerns from Air Spray related to contract fulfillment.

Background:

- Highways and Public Works and Community Services work together every year on procurements such as the ones for Wildland Fire Services.
- In 2022 two tenders for wildland fire air support were put out well in advance of the start date to allow for planning and preparation by the successful proponents.
- The successful proponents were Air Spray and Conair and we are working with them to get ready for the upcoming season.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# WFM-04

Spring 2024

2024 Air Tanker Contract

Community Services

- Wildland Fire Management's air tanker program is typically composed of two air tanker groups with six air tanker bases located across the territory.
- Wildland Fire Management uses "light" and "heavy" air tanker groups to aid in wildfire suppression activities.
- An additional aircraft for the "light" group was included in the new contract, increasing the number of aircraft from three to four, starting in 2024.
- The 2023 tender process awarded the tenders to Air Spray for \$13.9 million and Conair for \$20.3 million.

Approved by:

March 11, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Wildland Fire Emergency Preparedness

Community Services

Recommended response:

- After several intense wildfire seasons across Canada, Wildland Fire Management has been working diligently to prepare for the upcoming fire season by increasing response capacity and incorporating lessons learned last summer.
- We have allocated additional funding to increase initial attack capacity across the territory. Working with our First Nation partners, Yukon will have 14 First Nation and 14 Yukon government Initial Attack crews ready to respond this season. Overall, it will represent the same as an increase of four Initial Attack crews over the 2023 season.
- A number of Initial Attack crews will have a fourth crew member added. This will bolster resiliency and provide valuable mentorship experience ensuring we can meet personnel requirements in the years to come.
- In addition to the increased Initial Attack resources, we will continue to work with Yukon First Nation Wildfire to support training, certification and deployment of their 20- person Unit Crew.

Additional response:

- Additional funding has also extended the operational season for Yukon First Nation Initial Attack crews from 85 to 95 days reflecting the trend of longer wildfire seasons.
- Wildland Fire Management officials work closely with Yukon First Nation Wildfire on mitigation, training and surge capacity unit crews. The team also has relationships with other agencies through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, as well as the Northwest

Wildland Fire Emergency Preparedness

Community Services

Compact, that will ensure adequate resources are available when needed.

- I'd like to remind Yukoners that now is the time to start thinking about your personal preparedness and actions you can take to prepare your families and your property for wildfires.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The public remains concerned about the threat of wildfire to their communities.
-

Background:

- Yukon has 85 initial attack firefighters in regional bases across the Yukon and another 40 staff managing crews and aircraft, leading prevention programs, and providing logistical support.
- Through the Our Clean Futures initiative, Yukon government will be adding a meteorologist and data scientist to Wildland Fire Management for improved forecasting services that will support effective pre planning and fire suppression efforts.
- In 2023, there were 24 wildfire crews, which is comprised of 10 Yukon government and 14 Yukon First Nations crews.
- The 2023 season of extreme wildfire activity showed the need for strong public fire information. An enhanced fire map was launched in July to help people better understand the Yukon's fire situation while also learning more about fire activity in a given area.
- Wildland Fire Management (WFM) prepares for the fire season by having resources in place ready to respond to incidents as required. During the season, WFM's meteorologist and fire behavior specialists actively monitor current conditions and short-term forecast weather to ensure appropriate response to fires.

Session Briefing Note

TAB# WFM-05

Spring 2024

Wildland Fire Emergency Preparedness

Community Services

Approved by:

March 25, 2024

Deputy Minister, Department

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note
Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

TAB# 27
Spring 2024
Finance

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting Yukoners and communities while delivering strong, sustainable fiscal management.
- The Yukon's economy is returning to normal with inflation falling, tourism rebounding, and growth in wages leading to higher consumer spending.
- This budget will benefit all Yukoners by providing significant investments in health care, education, and housing, and will ensure that Yukoners have opportunities to thrive in a vibrant and sustainable economy:
 - An additional \$15.3 million in funding is included to support the operations of the Yukon Hospital Corporation and another \$30 million is directed towards our Insured Health services system.
 - \$4.4 million will help increase the number of educational support staff and wellness professionals in our schools and create a learning environment that is inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of our students.
 - \$101 million in capital is dedicated for land development, housing, education and health care.
 - This year's budget also delivers on our commitment to environmental stewardship, demonstrated through more than \$55 million allocated to support existing and new actions identified in *Our Clean Future*.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

- Through Budget 2024-25, the government will continue to lay the foundation for the territory's new health authority. We will also provide funding to implement the *Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy* in coordination with our partners.
- This budget includes strategic investments in infrastructure, particularly in housing for the most vulnerable. Investments in housing include projects in Watson Lake, Mayo, Faro and Dawson City and funding support for various affordable and community housing projects.
- Like in previous budgets, Budget 2024-25 continues to build relationships and further reconciliation with Yukon First Nations.
- Revenue growth continues to accelerate alongside record levels of recoveries. The Yukon's strong financial position continues to improve as we look towards the future.

Additional response:

- The Yukon government is delivering on its commitment to grow a strong and resilient economy while ensuring robust, sustainable fiscal management.
- A strong surplus will serve as a prudent fiscal management tool and demonstrates the ability of the government to address unforeseen events without going into a deficit.

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

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

- The fiscal summary includes a \$50 million contingency for unforeseen pressures and emergencies. Including a contingency has been a proven method to offset the cost of expected but undefined expenditures that arise throughout the fiscal year while limiting their impact on the territory's fiscal position.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2024-25 Main Estimates will be debated during the March 2024 legislative session.
-

Background:

- The 2024-25 Main Estimates include a projected surplus of \$119 million and net debt of \$488.8 million.
- Total revenue is expected to be \$1.69 billion in 2024-25. This is an increase of \$115.8 million, or 7.4 per cent, from the 2023-24 Main Estimates.
- Gross O&M spending is forecast at \$1.6 billion, reflecting a \$141.4 million or 9.7 per cent increase over 2023–24 Main Estimates. Approximately 12 per cent is recoverable from Canada and other partners, making the net impact \$88.6 million, or a 6.7 per cent net increase over 2023–24 Mains.
- Forecast capital expenditures total \$484.0 million with recoveries of \$171.3 million. Although gross capital expenditures are consistent with the previous year (\$483.8 million in 2023-24) increased recoveries result in a 2.1 per cent decrease in net capital expenditures from the 2023-24 Main Estimates.

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Spring 2024

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

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- There are 5,484.5 FTEs in the 2024-25 budget, which is an increase of 152.8 FTEs from 2023-24. Growth primarily for CASA Education commitments (61.0) and Health Human Resources commitments (11.5) as well as Putting People First (28.5).

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Finance

February 28, 2024

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2023-24 Supplementary Overview

HPW TAB#1

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Spring 2024

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 will continue to make important investments to support our healthcare system, enhance public safety, and provide needed infrastructure across the territory.
- The 2023-24 Supplementary Estimates No. 2 forecasts an overall net increase of \$32.1 million in spending. This includes:
 - A \$61.0 million increase in gross O&M spending, with an offsetting increase of \$29.4 million in recoveries, and
 - Other than a small transfer of \$143,000 in the Yukon Legislative Assembly, there is no change in overall gross capital spending, and a small decrease of \$397,000 in recoveries.
- Changes in the Supplementary Estimates result in a revised forecast surplus of \$1.7 million and year-end net debt of \$444.5 million.
- The ability to remain in a surplus position despite an increase in spending is largely owed to significant infrastructure investments:
 - Infrastructure investments, which are mostly tangible capital assets, impact net debt when they are realized. However, as they are anticipated to provide benefits over many years, their

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Spring 2024

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impact on the surplus/deficit position is recognized over their expected life.

O&M

- In O&M, the most significant increases are for programs and initiatives in the Department of Health and Social Services:
 - \$25.6 million is required for Insured Health Services for physician claims, hospital claims, pharmacare and medical travel.
 - More than \$12 million in O&M spending will increase funding for the Yukon Hospital Corporation for unanticipated costs, which are partially a result of a global shortage of health care providers and work done to retain our valuable nurses.
- Some other significant items in the supplementary estimates include:
 - \$6.7 million to sustain initiatives aimed at strengthening justice and community safety within our territory.
 - \$4.1 million to cover costs for new teachers, educational assistants, learning assistant teachers and mental health and wellness counsellors, as well as Yukon University and Governance increases.
- The 29.4 million increases in O&M recoveries are mostly comprised of a \$25 million recovery expected to be received for work completed and underway at the Minto Mine, this year.

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Capital

- In Capital, there is no significant change in overall expenditures, but there are increases in several projects which are offset by decreases in other areas:
 - Most of the increases are for the Dempster Fibre project, which will receive an additional \$18.4 million to support faster than anticipated progress during the year. This project will provide Yukoners with more reliable access to the internet as well as necessary redundancy.
 - There is also a \$14.6 million increase for the Nisutlin Bay Bridge Replacement project and a \$7.9 million increase for the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport taxiway improvements and main runway replacement.
 - Finally, a \$5.8 million increase is required for the Old Crow Health and Wellness Centre replacement and the Old Crow 10-unit mixed-use housing project.
- These increases are offset by a number of decreases in other capital projects to reflect revised timelines:
 - The most notable decrease is a \$21.3 million reduction for the Skagway Marine Service Platform project, which has been moved to 2025-26.

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- There is also an \$8 million decrease in Northern Carve Out funding, which is being deferred to 2024-25.
- Delays in some of the community projects under the infrastructure development funding will also see an additional \$7.7 million decrease in capital.

Additional Response:

- Revenues for 2023-24 are expected to decrease by \$14.9 million, mainly to reflect lower forecasts for tobacco and corporate income tax revenues and quartz mining royalties.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2023-24 Supplementary Estimates #2 is tabled in the spring session and will be the subject of debate.

Approved by:

Feb 29/24

Feb. 28, 2024

Deputy Minister, HPW

Approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Carbon Pricing
(Corporate Note)**Environment & Finance

Recommended response:

- Since its introduction in 2019, the Government of Yukon has been supportive of carbon pricing as a policy to help us reduce emissions and move toward our ambitious climate targets.
- The Department of Environment and the Department of Finance work closely to ensure that we take a balanced approach to carbon pricing in the territory, one which considers the need to reduce emissions as well as the fair return of carbon pricing revenues to Yukoners.
- Our two departments work together to coordinate with our federal counterparts to assess the implications of carbon pricing in the territory and to ensure the needs of the territory are recognized in national policy.
- This includes retaining control over how revenues are distributed back to Yukon individuals, municipal governments, Yukon First Nations and businesses.
- It also includes excluding carbon price from electricity generation or aviation, in recognition of the unique constraints of our northern jurisdiction.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Carbon Pricing
(Corporate Note)**Environment & Finance

Additional response:

- Carbon pricing is just one tool in our toolkit to address the climate emergency.
- We continue to implement Our Clean Future to reduce the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions and, more broadly, to reduce the impact of the carbon levy on Yukoners.
- In December of last year, we announced 42 new actions under Our Clean Future as part of the third Our Clean Future annual report outlining the progress we have made on the strategy.
- Although we have made progress on many of our commitments, there is still significant work required to meet our target of reducing our emissions by 45 per cent by 2030
- Our government continues to stand by carbon pricing as sound, evidence-based policy on climate change, but we share concerns about equity; specifically, for those Yukoners who do not use heating oil for their homes.
- The policies in Our Clean Future, as well as carbon pricing, are intended to incentivize Yukoners to make the switch to low carbon energy sources, like electric heating or heat pumps. Despite this change to the federal carbon levy, Yukoners continue to lead the way to support this low carbon transition.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Carbon Pricing
(Corporate Note)**Environment & Finance

- Ensuring that we utilize every policy lever at our disposal, including carbon pricing, is essential to meet our goals.
- Together, we are finding solutions to reduce our emissions while strengthening our economy and supporting our industry partners.

Third response:

- The Yukon's carbon rebate is revenue-neutral. We are committed to both reducing carbon emissions in the territory and to returning all the federal government's revenues to Yukoners.
 - Returning proceeds to individuals, municipal governments, Yukon First Nations, and businesses is a critical part of our approach to carbon pricing in the Yukon.
 - We are returning 100 per cent of the federal carbon levy to these four rebate groups who receive more, on average, than they pay in carbon pricing levies.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- In October 2023, the federal government announced a temporary 3-year exemption for home heating oil from the federal carbon price, with the intention of helping Atlantic Canada in particular.
 - While Atlantic Canada welcomed this change, the exemption has received considerable backlash. Most provincial governments (except for British Columbia) have called for extending the carbon price exemption to all home-heating fuels (including natural gas).
-

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Carbon Pricing
(Corporate Note)**

Environment & Finance

- Critics also argued that the exemption undermines the credibility of the carbon tax, and may weaken the incentives to switch to lower carbon heating options.

Background:

- The federal Draft Regulations Amending the Fuel Charge Regulations stipulate that all heating oil will be exempt from the fuel charge starting November 8, 2023, until April 2027.
- This means that light fuel oil consumption in all buildings, including residential, commercial, and institutional, will be exempt from the fuel charge.
- Nearly half (49.2% in 2022) of Yukon homes use oil-based heating.
- In Yukon, individuals, businesses, placer/quartz mining operations, Yukon First Nations governments and municipal governments are all eligible for a rebate for carbon pricing.
 - Individuals who live outside of Whitehorse receive a remote supplement, which was recently increased from 10 to 20% (and is now in line with the federal remote supplement for backstop jurisdictions including Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan).

Approved by:

Michael Prochazka, Deputy Minister of
Environment

March 1, 2024

Date approved

Deputy Minister of Finance

February 26, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Spring 2024

Finance

Recommended:

- Inflation has continued to improve in recent months, but all Yukon households continue to see their budgets stretched by elevated prices, with lower-income households often feeling the worst effects.
- The Government of Yukon continues to track inflation and its impact on Yukoners, so that we can take steps to ease the burden.
- As inflationary pressures continue to lessen, efforts to make life more affordable for Yukoners and to help industry are shifting from short-term assistance to measures with the potential to provide longer-term benefits, such as actions to improve home affordability.

Additional response:

- This year's Budget continues to support Yukoners by making sure they can access essential services at prices they can afford.
 - o The Budget includes massive investments to advance affordable housing projects across the Yukon. From the Housing First Project in Watson Lake, the Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse, and the Korbo Multiplex in Dawson, the Yukon government will be taking action to build more affordable homes for Yukoners, especially those in vulnerable situations.
 - o There is also over \$42 million in continued funding for early learning and child care in this Budget. This includes funding for the universal child care program, which has reduced child care fees to less than \$10 per day on average.

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Spring 2024

Finance

- o We are also making life more affordable and leading the nation with our Yukon-wide dental program, which will see \$5.4 million in continued funding for 2024-25.
 - o To make sure that more people have the option of staying home when they are sick, we have extended the Temporary Paid Sick Leave and included the necessary funding to do so in this Budget. We have also extended the Interim Electrical Rebate, which will provide welcome relief from power bills to Yukoners across the territory.
- These are just a few examples of the many programs and initiatives that will continue to support Yukoners this year.
- The Yukon's minimum wage has also been responsive to price changes, as its annual change is tied to inflation in the year prior. After growing 6.8 per cent in 2023, the minimum wage is scheduled to grow a further 4.9 per cent to \$17.59 per hour as of April 1, 2024. The new minimum wage would represent the second highest wage in Canada, behind only Nunavut's minimum wage of \$19.00 per hour.
- Higher inflation impacts various Government of Yukon programs through indexation, including:
 - 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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Spring 2024
Finance

- o The Comprehensive Municipal Grant Regulation
- o The minimum wage
- o Residential rent caps
- o The tobacco tax rate

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Inflation has fallen from historical highs but remains elevated in Canada and in the Yukon.
- While improved, energy prices remain elevated, and food and shelter costs continue to be prominent drivers of overall inflation. These are all areas where higher prices are more obvious to consumers.
- Housing affordability has been a concern in the Yukon for several years.
- After more than a year of local inflation being among the highest in Canada, growth in the Whitehorse CPI trended down throughout 2023 and was once again below the national inflation in the last three months of 2023.
- Higher earnings were reported across most industries in 2023, and several industries reported earnings growth more than 2023's average inflation of 4.9 per cent. Even as some industries had earnings gains outpace inflation, earnings growth of 2.8 per cent in the industry total fell short of the overall increase in prices in 2023.

Background:

Inflation – Recent performance and outlook

- Early in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, some price pressures were slower to materialize in the Yukon than in other parts of the country, as inflation for Whitehorse was amongst the lowest in Canada in the first half of 2022.

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Spring 2024

Finance

- Robust price growth in the CPI components of food, shelter and recreation, education and reading material were key drivers of overall inflation in 2023.
- Actions taken by the Bank of Canada to rein in inflation by cooling the Canadian economy appear to be having the desired effects. The national labour market has softened, consumer spending has slowed, and real GDP has leveled out. Following ten increases in the overnight rate since March 2022, discussion among many analysts has shifted towards the timing of rate cuts.
- The Bank's efforts to tame inflation look to have set the stage for a soft landing for Canada, as inflation is trending down without an accompanying sharp downturn in economic activity. Weaker energy prices and improving supply chains have also helped contribute to a much-improved national inflation picture.
- Prior to the recent period of elevated inflation, prices in the Yukon had generally tracked close to the national trend. After averaging 3.9 per cent in 2023, the Bank expects national inflation to fall to 2.8 per cent in 2024 and 2.2 per cent in 2025. As price pressures continue to recede, a similar story is expected locally with growth of the Whitehorse CPI forecast to fall from 4.9 per cent in 2023 to 3.0 per cent in 2024 and 2.5 per cent in 2025.

PROGRAMS AND OTHER MEASURES THAT SUPPORT AFFORDABILITY

Projects under the Five-Year Capital Plan supporting housing affordability (Yukon Housing Corporation)

- The **Old Crow 10-Plex Mixed-Use Housing** facility will be completed and will be ready for residents to start moving in by March 2024.
- Construction of the **10-plex Housing First Project in Watson Lake** began in the summer of 2023. It is scheduled to be completed in the fall 2024.
- Construction of the **Faro and Dawson Duplex** projects started in summer 2023 and are scheduled to be complete in early 2024.

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Spring 2024

Finance

- The **Korbo Multiplex in Dawson** is in the design phase. This project will deliver approximately 34 new housing units.
- The old **Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse** was demolished in December 2023 and plans are underway to replace it with a new multi-family affordable housing complex. The project is in the design phase and is anticipated to deliver over 45 new units.

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.

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.

Paid sick leave program (Economic Development)

- On April 1, 2023, Economic Development launched the Paid Sick Leave Rebate. The program will run for two 12-month blocks:
 - April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024; and
 - April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025
- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate is a temporary program that offers 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

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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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 Child Benefit (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, starting in the 2023–24 budget year.

Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement (Health and Social Services)

- The Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement provides a monthly income supplement for eligible Yukoner senior's receiving Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) from the federal government. This amount is adjusted for inflation in October each year.

Inflation Relief Rebate and Interim Electrical Rebate (Yukon Development Corporation)

- The Inflation Relief Rebate, a \$50 rebate that is automatically applied to electrical customers' bills, was a temporary measure to address inflation. The Inflation Relief Rebate was most recently applied to all ATCO Electric Yukon and Yukon Energy bills for November and December 2023 and January 2024.
- The Interim Electrical Rebate continues to provide residential electrical customers with a maximum rebate of \$22.62 per month based on the electricity they consume, up to 1,000 kilowatt hours (up to \$271.44 per year). This affordability measure has been extended to March 2025.

Other Government initiatives

Initiatives under Health and Social Services:

- Engagement on the Yukon's Social Assistance rates started in late summer 2023 with clients on Social Assistance.
- While the review is underway, the department is providing a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients.

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Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

Spring 2024

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- To offset inflationary cost of living increases and provide sufficient financial resources to meet the needs of children placed in their care, the department is providing a 10 per cent increase to monthly payments to caregivers of children in out of home care, on top of the annual indexed increase.
- During the 2023-24 fiscal year, a 16.46 per cent rate increase for community and extended family caregivers was provided. The rates are as follows:
 - o Whitehorse: \$46.86 per day
 - o Rural Communities: \$50.16 per day
 - o Old Crow: \$86.40 per day

Comprehensive Municipal Grant (Community Services)

- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant is how the Government of Yukon directly funds municipal governments. This core funding supplements municipal resources and pays for vital services, like the provision of fresh drinking water, the collection of solid waste and recycling, recreation programming and other services as required under the Municipal Act and other legislation.
- The high inflation seen in 2022 (6.8 per cent) will increase the grant payments to be provided in April 2024. This will result in a \$2.3 million increase for Yukon municipalities with overall contributions of over \$24.5 million for fiscal year 2024/25.

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

- Our energy programs are successfully encouraging Yukon residents and local businesses to reduce their energy use, save money and choose low carbon options to live and move.
- Energy efficiency rebate programs are available for the transportation sector, renewable heating sector, and the construction sector focusing on high efficiency buildings.

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Spring 2024
Finance

- 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 on their energy costs.
- Between January 1, 2018, and December 31st, 2023, 221 high-performance retrofits to residential, commercial and institutional buildings have been completed across the territory.
- 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.

Support to the forestry industry (Energy, Mines and Resources)

- To help increase the supply of firewood, over the past two years the Yukon government has offered an incentive to timber harvesters. In 2022-23, the Government of Yukon distributed \$315,000 to 33 Yukon businesses. The program has contributed to an increase in timber harvest volumes.
- In fall 2023, the Government of Yukon and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency combined financial contributions to launch the \$200,000 Forestry Support Program. The program is helping to enhance operational safety and resilience by allowing commercial harvesters and retailers to purchase or repair things like harvest equipment, vehicles, trailers, and personal protective equipment.
- We have distributed over \$170,000 through this program and anticipate exhausting the funds by the application deadline of March 31, 2024.

Temporary Landlord Assistance Program (Economic Development)

- Vacancy rates in the local rental market remain very low. The Government of Yukon is committed to encouraging landlords to remain in the residential market. To help support this, the department of Economic Development introduced a temporary Landlord Assistance Program in November 2023.

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- The program is available to all Yukon residential landlords who rent out accommodations to which the Yukon's Residential Landlord and Tenant Act applies and who rented out accommodation in 2023. The program provides a one-time, per-unit payment of \$338 for 2023.

Government initiatives indexed to inflation

- Higher inflation impacts various Government of Yukon programs through indexation, (indexation is updated each April unless otherwise noted), including:
 - o Comprehensive Municipal Grant Regulation (with a one-year lag)
 - o The minimum wage
 - o Subsidies for medical travel
 - o Pioneer Utility grant
 - o Residential rent caps
 - o Seniors benefits (updated each October)
 - o Social Assistance Payments (updated each November)
 - o Student Financial Assistance (updated each school year)
 - o Tobacco Tax is updated each January
 - o Yukon Child Benefit (July)

Covid-19 and other temporary inflation relief measures no longer in place:

Tourism and Culture:

COVID-19 Business Relief Programs

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Yukon acted quickly and decisively by implementing one of the most robust business relief programs in the country. This began with the Yukon Business Relief Program (YBRP) in 2020, which was open to any business from any sector that experienced at least a 30 per cent revenue loss due to the pandemic.

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Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

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- In that same year, Tourism and Culture (T&C) also launched the Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan (TRRP), which was reviewed and endorsed by the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB) and industry.
- The Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan committed \$15 million over 3 years to support the tourism sector and was focused on 4 key themes:
 - Providing tourism sector leadership;
 - Rebuilding confidence and capabilities for tourism;
 - Supporting the recovery of tourism industry operators; and
 - Refining the brand and inspiring travelers to visit.
- Through the TRRP, various financial support programs were rolled out during the course of the pandemic to sustain the tourism industry and prepare it for the eventual reopening of borders, including:
 - Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS);
 - Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement (TNASS);
 - Culture and Tourism Non-profit Sector Supplement;
 - Great Yukon Summer (GYS) program;
 - Great Yukon Summer Freeze program;
 - ELEVATE program; and
 - A top-up to the Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund (TCMF).

Health and Social Services:

- a one-time \$150 payment to social assistance recipients;
- a one-time payment of \$150 to Yukon Seniors Income Supplement recipients;
- a one-time 10 per cent additional payment to Pioneer Utility Grant recipients;

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- a 6-month extension of \$500 per month to caregivers of children in out of home care; and
- a commitment of \$100,000 to Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition to continue to support food security across the territory.

Approved by:

February 28, 2024

 Deputy Minister, Finance

 Approved

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We recognize the urgency of the climate emergency and launched Our Clean Future in September 2020 to map our route forward.
- The Government of Yukon continues to make significant progress on implementing Our Clean Future. In December 2023, we released the third Our Clean Future annual report outlining the progress we made responding to climate change in 2022.
- The report announced the addition of 42 new actions to help us reach our climate goals. 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 42 new actions implement 15 recommendations from the Yukon Climate Leadership Council and three recommendations from the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change.
- Additionally, several of the new recommendations put forward by the Yukon Climate Leadership Council align with existing Our Clean Future actions.
- We will continue to work together to advance our efforts to reduce emissions as we assess our progress year-to-year, consider new research and the input of others, and increase our resilience to climate change.
- We have also revised 19 existing actions to better align with our efforts to reduce the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions and build a climate resilient territory.

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Additional response:

- As we continue to address climate change it is important for us to look back on our progress as we diligently work towards our objectives.
- We legislated greenhouse gas emissions targets and associated reporting through the Clean Energy Act in 2022.
- We installed electric vehicle chargers in every road-accessible community in the Yukon, enabling zero-emissions travel throughout the territory. (See EMR BN #29)
- We launched the five-year Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership in 2023 which will enhance the agriculture sector's resiliency and adaptation to climate change.
- In collaboration with the Yukon's public utilities, we met our target to install seven megawatts of renewable electricity capacity through the Micro-Generation program by 2030. (See EMR BN #38)
- We launched the Better Buildings Program to offer affordable financing for energy retrofits to Yukoners' homes and buildings in 2022.
- We established a geohazard mapping program to understand risks from climate change to the Yukon's transportation corridors.
- We advanced emergency preparedness as we progressed the Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Dawson City, Mayo, Watson Lake, Beaver Creek, the Town of Faro and the Kluane Lake Region.
- We have begun work to develop flood hazard maps for all flood-prone Yukon communities. We expect to release flood maps for the Southern Lakes, Carmacks, and Teslin in 2024. Flood hazard mapping

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for Old Crow and Dawson and the Klondike Valley will begin in 2024 and 2025.

- In May 2023, we completed the installation of a biomass heating system at Elijah Smith Elementary School in Whitehorse.
- In January 2024, we passed an electric vehicle charging station regulation under the *Public Utilities Act* to allow First Nation governments, private businesses and municipalities to sell electricity through electric vehicle charging stations.

Third response:

- Of the original 136 actions released in Our Clean Future in 2020, we have completed 45 actions. Eighty-seven actions are in progress and four are yet to begin.
- The ambitious addition of 42 new actions in 2023 puts 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.
- We are working with industry to establish a path to implement the mining intensity target of a 45 per cent reduction in emissions per unit of production by 2035.
- We will continue to build on Our Clean Future as we learn more and implement new actions. This will be reflected in future 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:

ENV #1 / EMR #33

Spring 2024

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

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

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 (see Appendix A).
- The Government of Yukon reports annually on progress for the implementation of Our Clean Future. Three Annual Reports have been published to date, with the latest report released on December 20, 2023.
- The Our Clean Future website was launched in December 2023, which shows our commitments and successes towards fighting climate change.
- On February 16, 2024, the Government of Canada released an update on design options being considered for the upcoming Clean Electricity Regulations. This regulation is one of the Government of Canada's central commitments towards transitioning Canada towards a net-zero electricity grid by 2035.
- Yukon will be exempted from the Clean Electricity Regulations as the territory's electricity grid is currently not interconnected with any other region and is therefore not regulated by North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

Approved by:

March 19, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

Date approved

March 19, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

Recommended response:

- Many Yukoners continue to face challenges across the housing continuum, including:
 - homelessness and a lack of access to housing with services;
 - a lack of affordable rental supply; and
 - high house prices and mortgage rates.
- Exceptionally high building costs and rising interest rates are creating significant challenges for both Yukon Housing Corporation and its partners.
- The corporation's new strategic plan, Creating Home, will help transform affordable housing service delivery through the adoption of a more client-centred and collaborative approach that integrates supports and leads to better outcomes for Yukoners.

Additional response:

- Across government, we are working with stakeholders to develop new land parcels, increase housing stock while also responding to the findings of the 2022 Office of the Auditor General Report on Housing.
- We continue to advance projects that provide new housing to meet Yukoners' needs.

Context:

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

Background:

General housing information in the Yukon

Homelessness

- At least 197 people were experiencing homelessness in the 2023 Whitehorse Point-in-Time Count. This included: 58% men; 38 % female; 4% other.

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

Rental pricing

- As of October 2023, the median rent for units in Whitehorse in all types of buildings \$1,368. This is 5.1% higher than it was in October 2022. For rental units in buildings with three or more units, the median rent was \$1,250, and the vacancy rate was 1.2%. Within the renter population in Whitehorse:
 - 22.7% live in unaffordable housing;
 - 17.9% live in unsuitable housing; and
 - 10.5% live in inadequate housing.

Rental and vacancy rate, Yukon (YBS)

	April 2022	October 2022	April 2023	October 2023
Median rent (all types)	\$1,300	\$1,301	\$1,325	\$1,368
Vacancy rate (all types)	1.6%	1.7%	2.2%	1.9%

Housing Construction

- Residential building construction declined by 19.3% over the same period. There was \$81.9 million in residential building construction in Yukon in 2023. This figure represents a 7.5% decline from 2022.
- Labour shortages contribute to higher construction costs and are leading to lower residential construction output.¹

House prices

- Yukon Bureau of Statistics real estate reports show that average prices for single detached and condos have fallen for three consecutive quarters; however, house prices remain high and many Yukoners face affordability challenges due to rising mortgage rates.
- Average House Prices (YBS)

Type	Whitehorse Average House Prices		
	2022 Q3	2023 Q3	Change
Single-detached house	\$701,200	\$664,600	(-5.2%)
Condominium	\$459,400	\$426,600	(-7.1%)

¹ Northern Housing Report, 2023

Yukon Housing Corporation Accomplishments

Creating Home – YHC new strategic plan

- Creating Home is the corporation's new 5-year strategic plan that will transform affordable housing service delivery through the adoption of a more client-centred and collaborative approach that integrates supports and leads to better outcomes for Yukoners and communities.
- The plan draws on a recognized framework intended to re-design and transform health care delivery, called the Quadruple Aim, and adapts it to housing.
 - This innovative approach to housing delivery will lead to better outcomes by:
 - improving the client and provider experience
 - strengthening community wellbeing; and
 - contributing to a sustainable future
- Creating Home represents a significant shift in how Yukon Housing Corporation operates and delivers housing services.

Capital builds recently completed by YHC or partners:

- 60 units completed between 21/22 and 22/23 by YHC
- **February 2024** 10 units in Old Crow (with HPW)
- **March 2024** accessible duplex in Faro
- **January 2024** – 3-unit mobile home delivered and prepared for occupancy for RRDC staff to help improve social conditions in the community.
- **August 2023** – two accessible, affordable duplexes in Mayo and Carmacks, YHC
- **July 2023** – a 12-bed men's shelter, Jëje Zho, in Dawson City, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
- **May 2023** – 9-unit Elders' complex, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
- **January 2023** – 87-unit rental development in Whitehorse by Boreal Commons
- **January 2023** – 47-unit build for in Whitehorse YHC
- **December 2022** – 84-unit Seniors' Supportive Housing Facility, Normandy Living.
- **July 2022** – 45-unit multi-use building, Cornerstone: Opportunities Yukon
- **June 2022** – triplex in Whitehorse, YHC
- **Summer 2022** – 20-unit, Whistle Bend: Champagne and Aishihik First Nations
- **March 2022** – triplexes in Mayo and Watson Lake, YHC

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

Underway or Upcoming housing capital projects for YHC and partners

YHC- Underway (12 units)

- 10-unit Watson Lake Housing First building
- 2-unit affordable duplex in Dawson

YHC – Upcoming (112+ units) Community housing:

- 34-unit building with 8 accessible units in Dawson
- 45+ unit building with 9 accessible units on 6th Avenue in Whitehorse (formerly Ryder Apartments)
- 10 units in Mayo
- 6-plex in Teslin
- 6-plex in Carcross
- 6-plex Haines Junction
- Accessible triplex in Whitehorse
- Accessible duplex in Ross River

Staff housing:

- Accessible duplex in Destruction Bay
- Accessible duplex in Pelly Crossing
- Duplex in Burwash Landing

Rent subsidy programs to make life more affordable for renters and seniors:

- July 2023, the corporation acquired an additional 16 units for lease from Normandy, for a total of 26 units to lease to YHC clients through its rent supplement program.
- Since 2020, the corporation has supported over 300 households pay rent through the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit. As of April 2024, 177 clients are receiving monthly support.

Support for homeowners:

- March 2024 – CYHB Homeowners stream
- June 2023 the Yukon government launched an \$8.25 million flood recovery program for residents and businesses affected by flooding in the Klondike Valley. (Tab #19)

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

- April 2023, YHC launched the expanded Yukon Home Ownership Program which provides mortgages for qualified households to build and buy their homes across the territory, including Whitehorse.
 - The program is currently under review and scheduled for revision in the coming year.
- In 2020, YHC launched the revised Home Repair Program to support low to moderate-income Yukon homeowners to remain in their homes and age in place by providing funding to address mobility requirements, repairs, or core housing needs.

Support for new residential land development 2023:

- June 2023, the Government of Yukon partnering with the Government of Canada and the City of Dawson to develop [four new residential lots in Dawson City](#).
- February 2023 – 120 lots, including single family, multi-family and townhouse lots in Whistle Bend made available through public lottery.
- March 2023 Government of Yukon partnered with Liard First Nation on developing 43 new residential lots on Frances Avenue in Watson Lake.
- March 2023 – 74 residential lots in Mayo and the Logan and Whistlebend subdivisions of Whitehorse made available through public lottery.
- November 2022, signed a loan agreement with Kwanlin Dün First Nation's (KDFN) arm's-length development corporation Chu Níkwän Limited Partnership (CNLP) for a new residential land development project at [Copper Ridge West in Whitehorse](#), the first large-scale residential land development on settlement land in the Yukon. An amended loan agreement was signed August 2023 with Chu Níkwän for the same development.

Approved by:

President, Yukon Housing Corporation

April 30, 2024

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 our society.
- Our government is deeply committed to advancing reconciliation through collaboration and partnership with Indigenous governments.
- While there is still work to do, our efforts are resulting in meaningful change and creating better programs and services for all Yukoners.
- In 2023, on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we shared our progress toward addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action through the release of the Pathways magazine and an accompanying report.
- The magazine and report provide an update on the actions being taken across the Yukon government and in close collaboration with First Nation governments and organizations in areas including child welfare, health, education and justice.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nation governments are leaders in demonstrating a collaborative approach to reconciliation.
- 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) Calls to Action.

**Truth and Reconciliation Commission
– Update on Calls to Action**Executive Council
Office**Background:**

- The TRC report, *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*, was released in June 2015. It contains 94 Calls to Action focused on redressing the harms resulting from Residential Schools and creating better relations between the federal, provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous Peoples. Thirty-two of the Calls to Action relate directly to YG.
- YG 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.
- YG 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:_____
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office2024.02.02

Date