

Economic Development Briefing Notes

2022 Spring Sitting

Honorable Ranj Pillai



Reference Notes: Minister Pillai**Topic:** 2020-21 Supplementary Estimates No. 2
Economic Development

- Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
- Mr. Speaker, honourable members, as the Minister of Economic Development I rise today to introduce the *Supplementary Estimates No. 2* for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

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- Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Yukon has taken focused steps and implemented rapid responses to support the Yukon's economy.
- As we step cautiously through this evolving situation, we are committed to supporting our residents, businesses and communities through this global crisis.
- This supplementary budget includes supports for businesses affected by the pandemic and additional funding for new media development programming.

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COVID-19 Response – increase of \$3,977,000

- Costs incurred from new programming to address the impacts of COVID-19 on Yukon businesses are reflected in this estimate.
- This includes the Yukon Emergency Relief Program which supports Yukon businesses and non-governmental organizations financially impacted by the orders under the Civil Emergency Measures Act.
- This program increased the departmental budget by **\$820,000**.
- The department also offered the Vaccine Verification Rebate to support businesses and non-governmental organizations that needed to purchase equipment to ensure visitors are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- The program provided a 50 per cent rebate towards the purchase of equipment up to a maximum rebate of \$500.
- The Vaccine Verification Rebate added an additional **\$157,000** to the department's budget.
- The main contributor to this supplementary budget request is the Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement for restaurants and bars.

- The original supplement program provided funding to non-accomodation businesses that relied on tourism and were operating at a loss.
- This was recently expanded to provide great assistance to restaurants and bars.
- This increase adds an additional **\$3,000,000** to the departmental budget.
- In total these pandemic supports created to keep our territory's economy strong have increased the department's budget by **\$3,977,000.**

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Operations has an increase of \$500,000

- In addition to our pandemic response programming, the department recently announced updated media funding programs to support the territory's film sector.
- In order to stay aligned with film funding programs across Canada and to grow the industry, we are asking for an additional **\$500,000** to be added to the program's annual budget.

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- Across the department, as we work proactively to determine the supports needed, we recognize the need for flexibility in how we approach this.
- Whether through changes to existing programs, variations in uptake based on the progression of the pandemic, or new programs for new challenges, we will continue to work with industry organizations and local businesses to support Yukon businesses and workers impacted by the pandemic.
- This important work will continue.
- Through this supplementary budget, we are seeking an increase of **\$4.477 million** to support these efforts.

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- Mr. Speaker, to summarize, we are putting forward a total of **\$27.88 million** in Operations and Maintenance and Capital for the Department of Economic Development.
- The work that the department undertakes using these funds will continue to pave our path to recovery during the course of

COVID-19 pandemic and we will continue to adapt and respond as the impact on the Yukon evolves.

- I would like to thank the department for their efforts and our local chambers of commerce for their commitment to supporting the Yukon's economy and our local businesses.
- Thank you.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 3****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Paid Sick Leave Rebate**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

67(3)(a), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(i)

- Phase 1 of the program, running through March 31, 2021 paid out \$663,294 in rebates.
- Phase 2, running from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 paid out 67 74 75 in rebates.
- Phase 3 of the program, from October 1, 2021 through to April 21, 2022 processed 67 74 75 in rebate claims.
- The retail trade sector is the largest user of the program at 24% of the funding to date.
- The health care and social services sector (that includes day cares) (23% of funding to date) and construction (15.9% of funding to date) are also significant users of the rebate.

Additional response:

- The rebate program helps workers without paid sick leave continue to meet their financial needs while complying with health directives.
- These programs are critical in our efforts to keep Yukoners healthy by encouraging workers to stay home if they are sick, supporting businesses who encourage their workers to stay home if they are sick and providing workers with financial stability when sick.
- On October 1, 2022, our government announced a third phase Paid Sick Leave Program. This one-year extension, until September 30, 2022, replaced the previously expired program.

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Development

- With this introduction, a 30-day application window was publically announced. This has been communicated as part of the website and application process since that date.
- Program staff are available to help applicants understand the process, answer questions and guide them through the process.

Context—this may be an issue because:

67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)

Background:

- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate reimburses employers and people who are self-employed, who pay their workers to take sick days due to COVID-19 if they are sick, self-isolating or caring for other household members. The rebate program encourages workers to remain employed while off sick instead of leaving their employer and applying for federal EI or Canada Recovery Benefit due to financial hardship. Worker retention will be vital for the Yukon's economic recovery.
- The benefit of an employer-driven program is that it encourages the employer to provide the worker with sick leave while ensuring that employer costs will be reimbursed. Additionally, it allows the worker to continue to receive their wages even if they are off sick for a few days without interruption during the sick leave and eliminates the workers' burden of managing their own applications.

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Development**

- The rebate covers up to ten days of base wages, to a maximum of \$378.13 per day. The renewed program allows for an additional intake, providing employers with an additional 10-day intake from October 01, 2021 to September 30, 2022.
- A doctor's note is not required for the program.
- Appeals can be made to the Deputy Minister of Economic Development.
- Governments are not eligible for the program. If people in the public sector run out of their leave allocation, they are eligible for the Government of Canada program at this time.

Payments by community as of **April 21**, 2022:

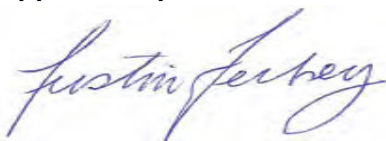
Community	Total Paid (\$)	% of Total Paid
Beaver Creek*	67(3)(a), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(i)	
Carmacks		
Dawson City		
Haines Junction		
Keno City		
Ross River		
Teslin		
Watson Lake		
Whitehorse		
Total	67(3)(a), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(i)	100.0

*this amount previously reported as Ross River in error

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 3****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Paid Sick Leave Rebate**Economic
Development

Payments by industry sector as of April 21, 2022:

Sector	Total Paid (\$)	% of Total Paid
Accommodation and food services	67(3)(a), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(i)	
Administrative support, waste management		
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting		
Arts, entertainment, recreation		
Construction		
Finance and insurance		
Health and social assistance		
Information and cultural industries		
Management of companies and enterprises		
Manufacturing		
Mining, quarrying and oil and gas		
Other service except public administration		
Professional, scientific and technical services		
Real estate, rental, leasing		
Retail trade		
Transportation and warehousing		
Wholesale Trade		
Total	67(3)(a), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(i)	100.0

Approved by:


Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 27, 2022

Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 7****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Regional Relief Loan Program**Economic
Development

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting businesses for long-term resilience, growth and prosperity. The Regional Relief Loan Program provided an additional funding option to businesses that require liquidity in evolving economic circumstances.
- Eligible businesses received up to \$100,000 in combined loans from the Regional Relief Loan Program and other federal COVID-19 Economic Response Plan loans.
- The loan is interest-free (0%) with principal payments deferred until December 31, 2022.
- This program was one of many that the Government of Yukon created to support businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- As of March 31, 2022:
 - We have approved ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(i)} in loans for 62 businesses;
 - \$251,307.84 has been repaid;
 - \$35,000 has been forgiven; and
 - \$3,159,894.16 remains outstanding.
- Loans have gone to businesses in nine rural Yukon communities along with Whitehorse.
- Loans have gone to businesses across almost every industry and economic sector.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 7****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Regional Relief Loan Program**Economic
Development**Additional response:**

- Applications were processed on a first-completed, first-reviewed basis. Once received, the department worked with the applicant to ensure that the required documentation is complete.
- The program was open to all Yukon businesses, including social enterprises, affected by COVID-19 and in need of funding.
- The Regional Relief Loan Program helped businesses and organizations economically impacted by the pandemic, and helped to address gaps left by other COVID-19 response programs.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The program was announced on February 24, 2021, with an original intake period of March 1, 2021, to March 31, 2021. The deadline was extended to June 30, 2021. After that date, applications were assessed based on the availability of funds.

Background:

- The Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) provided \$3.93 million in funding under the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund. As of the program deadline of June 30, 2021, the Government of Yukon received ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(i)} 67(3)(a), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(i) As of March 31, 2022, a total of 67 74 75 in loans to 62 businesses have been approved.
- As of September 29, 2021, the Managing Board has met nine times to review recommendations.
- A requirement of the federal funding is that the program be delivered by a Community Futures organization. As the Yukon did not have this type of structure

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Development**

and the Government of Yukon had to create a specific regulation under the *Economic Development Act* to receive the money from CanNor.

- The Department of Economic Development is managing funding to ensure that financial support is continuous as the Yukon's economy recovers.
- The program was announced on February 24, 2021, with an intake period of March 1, 2021, to March 31, 2021. The application deadline was extended to June 30, 2021.
- If the applicant repays 75% of the principal amount of the loan by December 31, 2022, the balance equal to 25% of the loan will be forgiven.
- If the loan is not fully repaid by December 31, 2022, the balance due, plus interest, must be repaid within three years, commencing January 1, 2023. The full balance must be repaid no later than December 31, 2025.
- An interest rate of up to five percent will be charged between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2025.
- Eligible costs for loans under the Regional Relief Loan Program include:
 - Costs that will help to stabilize the applicant to mitigate impacts of COVID-19 and that are not covered by other government COVID-19 relief measures;
 - Costs that have become due or have been incurred since March 15, 2020; and
 - Costs that are not otherwise ineligible for loans funded under the Fund.
- Ineligible costs for loans under the Regional Relief Loan Program include:
 - Costs related to refinancing of an existing debt;
 - Costs related to land acquisition;
 - Goodwill;
 - Costs related to the purchase of any assets for more than the fair market value of that asset;
 - Costs of amortization; and,
 - Monies for the same costs for which it has received or will receive other relief funding measures from government agencies.

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 7****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Regional Relief Loan Program**Economic
Development**Total loans by community as of March 31, 2022**

Carcross	\$40,000
Carmacks	\$100,000
Dawson City	\$355,000
Haines Junction	67(3)(a), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(i)
Keno City	\$30,000
Old Crow	\$40,000
Ross River	\$80,000
Teslin	\$100,000
Watson Lake	\$70,000
Whitehorse	\$2,311,202
Grand Total	67(3)(a), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(i)

Total loans by industry as of March 31, 2022

Accommodation and food services	67(3)(a), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(i)
Administrative and support waste management and remediation services	67(3)(a), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(i)
Agriculture forestry fishing hunting	\$15,150
Arts entertainment and recreation	\$140,000
Construction	\$377,000
Information and cultural industries	\$100,000
Manufacturing	\$180,000
Mining quarrying and oil and gas extraction	\$160,000
Other services except public administration	\$91,335
Professional scientific and technical services	\$353,500
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$240,000
Retail trade	\$274,217
Transportation and Warehousing	\$460,000
Wholesale trade	\$40,000
Grand Total	67(3)(a), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(b)(i)

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 21, 2022

Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB 20****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Department of Economic
Development Accomplishments**Economic
Development**Recommended response:**

- The Department of Economic Development continues to support Yukoners and their businesses through the challenges of the pandemic and moving into recovery.
- *The Economic resilience plan: Building Yukon's COVID-19 economic resiliency* was released to the public on March 10, 2021, to guide the Yukon's economy back to pre-pandemic levels of productivity and chart a path beyond in a way that is consistent with our environmental and socio-economic commitments.

Current COVID-19 Programs:

- In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Department of Economic Development provided almost \$20 million through its COVID-19 support programs. In the 2021-22 fiscal year the department has provided ^{67 74 75} in additional funding.
- The Yukon Emergency Relief Program has supported Yukon businesses and non-government organizations directly affected by restrictions under the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* (CEMA) and expired on March 31, 2022, two weeks after the CEMA orders were lifted. To March 31, 2022, 27 businesses and five NGOs have active Yukon Emergency Relief Program files. Approximately \$99,245 has been approved for support to date.
- The Vaccine Verification Rebate was created to support eligible businesses and organizations to purchase equipment required to verify vaccination status. As of March 9, 2022, ^{67 74 75} inquiries have been received with ^{67 74 75} rebate applications. The approximate rebate total has been **67 74 75**

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Development Accomplishments**Economic
Development

- Starting October 1, 2021, Economic Development began administering the Tourism Accommodation and Tourism Non-Accommodation Support Supplements to support tourism-reliant businesses.
- As of March 31, 2022, ^{67 74} TNASS applications, ^{67 74} TNASS bar and restaurant stream and ^{67 74} TASS applications have been received.
 - **67 74 75** of Onetime Sector Support to restaurants and bars, and
 - **67 74 75** of T(N)ASS has been approved for support to date.
- As of March 31, 2022, the Paid Sick Leave Rebate program has processed rebates of **67 74 75** to over ^{67 74 75} employers, providing sick leave pay to approximately ^{67 74 75} workers since March 2020.
- We have approved **67 74 75** in interest-deferred loans for 62 applicants through the Regional Relief Loan Program.

Mining:

67(3)(a), 68(1)(d), 74(1)(a), 75(1)(a)(ii), 75(1)(a)(iv), 75(1)(b)(i)

- We provide the Yukon Mining Alliance (YMA) with annual funding to support its global investment attraction activities.

Immigration:

- In 2021, the Yukon Nominee Program approved nominations for 300 foreign nationals to move to the Yukon to fill crucial positions for

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businesses across the territory. This is the first time the Yukon has used its full allocation since the inception of the program.

- Between January 1, 2022, and April 20, 2022,^{67 74} new candidates have been approved;^{67 74} Critical Impact Workers,^{67 74} Skilled Workers and 5 Express Entry.

Technology and Innovation:

- An Innovation Commission was established between August and November 2021 to advise on the development of a five-year innovation strategy that will attract technology start-ups and grow the Yukon's digital ecosystem.
- We are committed to building a thriving innovation economy and have supported YuKconstruct's Startup Bootcamp, TechYukon's North of AI program, and Yukon University Innovation and Entrepreneurship's Yukon Innovation Prize.

Funding Supports:

- We have streamlined our funding support programs by amalgamating the Enterprise Trade Fund (ETF), Regional Economic Development Fund (REDF) and Strategic Industries Development Fund (SIDF) into a single Economic Development Fund (EDF).
- This amalgamated fund was launched on April 1, 2021 to improve funding flexibility and ensure greater responsiveness to the needs of the business community.
- As of February 23, 2022,^{67 74 75} projects have been approved for funding with a total contribution commitment of just over ^{67 74 75} .

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Development Accomplishments**Economic
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- The Community Development Fund (CDF) has enabled us to support 58 projects for the 2021-2022 fiscal year with a total contribution commitment of \$2,874,402 as of March 2, 2022.
- CDF funded 66 projects and dispersed \$2,766,795 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
 - These projects have revitalized infrastructure, created programs that support children and families and allowed organizations to grow to meet changing markets.

Media Development:

- We carried out public engagement on potential improvements to our music and media funding programs and as a result, four new media programs, including administrative business guidelines, were announced on January 10, 2022. These programs will support the production of professional film, television and digital media projects.
- In 2021-22, we supported the creation of ^{67 74} film projects and ^{67 74} sound recording projects that were produced in the Yukon and will carry Yukon stories to the world, attracting over ^{67 74 75} in investment to our territory and providing valuable jobs to Yukoners.

Trade:

- We are creating opportunities for businesses to expand beyond our territory while applying the Yukon's special provisions and negotiated exceptions to develop our economy at home through the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.
- Since last session, Yukon has signed onto reconciliation agreements for the timely adoption of construction codes, extra-

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Development Accomplishments**Economic
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provincial/territorial registration and reporting, and for standards for seven types of fall protection equipment.

- These agreements remove non-tariff barriers to trade within Canada and are simplifying inter-jurisdictional operations for Yukoners and Yukon companies.
- We continue to participate in regional and global innovation initiatives to encourage investments in our economy, support growth of Yukon businesses across all sectors and create opportunities for employment, diversification and market expansion.


Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Department of Economic Development has been focused on supporting the Yukon's businesses to weather the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it has continued to advance many important files and priorities.

Background:

- Economic Development's current Strategic Plan (2022-23 to 2024-25) identifies a vision of:

The Department of Economic Development aims to be a dynamic partner to First Nations, municipalities and the private sector with responsive resources for targeted opportunities that have measurable impacts on economic growth and diversification.

Approved by:


Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 21, 2022
 Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2022****Economic Overview**Economic
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Recommended response:

- Overall, the Yukon's economy has rebounded from the COVID-19 economic shock faster than any other Canadian jurisdiction.
- Key points:
 - Statistics Canada's GDP numbers show the Yukon's economy grew at a blistering 5.2% in 2020, while Canada's GDP shrank by 5.2% over the year. The Yukon's economic growth rate is by far the fastest in the country.
 - Why is the Yukon's economy growing?
 - The biggest driver is exports. Specifically, mineral exports. (Exports grew strongly in 2020 despite a difficult COVID tourism year. Tourism is a service export industry).
 - At a close second, the next driver is government investment in built infrastructure, roads, bridges, schools etc.
 - The general growth in government was at about one third of the growth rate of exports and infrastructure investment.
 - And residential construction contributed roughly the same rate of growth to GDP as general government growth.
 - Statistics Canada says Yukon's expenditure-based GDP growth in 2020 was attributable to a year-over-year growth from 2019 to 2020 of:

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- 18.5% in Exports of goods and services (this is almost all mineral exports),
 - 18.3% in General governments gross fixed capital formation (this is government investment in infrastructure),
 - 6.6% in General governments final consumption expenditure (this is mostly hiring of staff and other O&M), and,
 - 6.2% in Residential structures (house construction).
- The Conference Board of Canada released its latest 20 Year Territorial Outlook on March 24, 2022 in which it projects that mining development and production will support economic growth over the forecast period starting with 7.6% Real GDP growth in 2022.
 - The Conference Board of Canada also expects the Yukon's population to grow every year of their forecast with an average annual growth rate of 0.8 percent.
 - As of December 2021, the labour market appeared to have fully recovered from pandemic lows and the Yukon had by far the lowest unemployment rate in Canada (2.8%).
 - The unemployment rate has since moved up to 5.8% in March 2022, but the year-over-year trend is still moving in the right direction (the March 2021 unemployment rate was 6.4%).
 - There are many available jobs in the Yukon, 1,320 in Q4 of 2021 for a 6.6% job vacancy rate. Average wage offered for these jobs is \$23.80 per hour. Given the number of vacancies it would be unsurprising to see the unemployment rate drop again this spring.

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- The population continues to grow, average weekly earnings are up and retail sales are still strong and rising.
- With three operating hard rock mines and high mineral prices, mining continues to be a bright spot in the Yukon economy.
- Construction, particularly residential construction, is another sector showing significant strength.

Additional response:

- Businesses linked to tourism, including tour operators, accommodations and some parts of the aviation sector are the exception with many continuing to struggle, as visitor numbers remain lower than usual.
- The Yukon's mining sector is contributing significantly to the economy:
 - Victoria Gold's Eagle Gold Mine, the largest gold mine in the Yukon's history, achieved full commercial production as of July 1, 2020.
 - Total gold production in 2020 was 116,644 ounces.
 - In 2021 production rose to 164,222 ounces.
 - Expected future production is approximately 200,000 ounces.
 - The Minto Mine, under the ownership of Pembridge Resources, resumed producing copper concentrate in late 2019.
 - Copper production rose from 17.8 million pounds in 2020 to 26.0 million pounds in 2021.

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- Forecast production of 28.0 to 31.0 million pounds of copper in 2022.
- The expected mine life has been extended from 2023 to 2028.
- Alexco Resource Corporation resumed production at Keno Hill in late 2020 and production levels have ramped up sharply in 2021 with annual production of:
 - 621,601 ounces silver,
 - 4.8 million pounds lead, and
 - 1.7 million pounds zinc.
- Newmont's proposed Coffee Creek mine has cleared its initial environmental assessment, a significant advance for the project.
- Preliminary 2021 data show that the industry spent \$135.1 million on exploration and deposit appraisal, up over 60% from the \$83.6 million spent in 2020.
- The industry expects to increase exploration and deposit appraisal spending to \$158.2 million in 2022.
- These successes mean more mining jobs in the Yukon, more money for local businesses and more partnerships that bring jobs and training to our communities.

Context—this may be an issue because:

67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)

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- The average Whitehorse price for regular gas rose from \$1.20 in 2020 to \$1.44 in 2021 and \$1.60 by February 24, 2022. Current the price for gas in Whitehorse is \$1.79 per litre.
-

Background:**Real GDP:**

- Statistics Canada's GDP numbers show the Yukon's economy grew by 5.2% in 2020, while Canada's GDP shrank by 5.2% over the year.
- Yukon's expenditure-based GDP growth in 2020 was attributable to an:
 - 18.5% growth in *Exports of goods and services*,
 - 18.3% growth in *General governments gross fixed capital formation*,
 - 6.6% growth in *General governments final consumption expenditure*, and
 - 6.2% growth in *Residential structures*.

Population:

- Despite the onset of COVID-19, the Yukon's population has continued to grow, reaching a new high of 43,568 at the end of September 2021.

Labour Market:

- March 2022 saw the labour force drop to 24,000, still a strong recovery from pandemic lows.
- As of December 2021, the labour market appeared to have fully recovered from pandemic lows and the Yukon had by far the lowest unemployment rate in Canada (2.8%).
- The unemployment rate has since moved up to 5.8% in March 2022, but the year-over-year trend is still moving in the right direction (the March 2021 unemployment rate was 6.4%).

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- The Yukon had a strong labour market performance from 2017 through 2019. Following historic lows of 2.3% in the summer of 2018, the unemployment rate averaged 3.6%, the lowest in the country, in 2019.
- Yukon women and men have experienced very different labour markets during the pandemic. Unemployment for men jumped to a higher peak (10.2% in August 2020) then stayed largely higher than the women's rate before falling to 2.3% in December 2021. The unemployment rate for women reached a lower peak (7.1% in July 2020), fell to a low of 2.6% in November 2020, but then rose higher than the men's to a new peak of 7.8% in June of 2021 before declining to 3.4% by December 2021.
- The Yukon's average weekly earnings increased by 3.4% in 2021 compared to 2020.

Retail Sales:

- Preliminary numbers for 2021 show retail sales continuing strong growth, up 6.9% over 2020 to another record of \$946.2 million.
 - In early 2020, COVID-19 reversed a general growth trend in retail sales but the second half of 2020 showed a strong recovery and 2020 sales hit a new record of \$885.2 million.

Real Estate (Whitehorse):

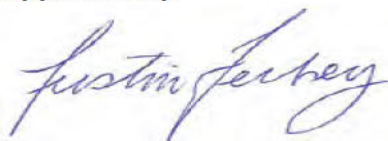
- Value of real estate transactions and the average prices of homes continue to rise.
 - 2021 showed a further increase in the value of Whitehorse real estate transactions, up 13.1% over 2020, which was itself a record-high year.
 - In 2021, the average weighted price of a single-detached house hit \$645,000, up from \$564,700 in 2020.
 - The costs of construction have also increased sharply with supply chain pressures in southern Canada.
- Residential construction is booming.
 - In 2020, permits were issued for 657 new or converted dwelling units, up by more than 70% over 2019.

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- In 2021 the number of permits issued for new or converted dwelling units fell slightly to 640, down 2.6% from 2020 but the total value of those permits is up by 16.4%.

	2019	2020	2021
Real GDP			
Annual per cent change	-2.1(r)	5.2	N/A
Population			
Population (persons)	41,352	42,507	43,568 (to Sept)
Annual per cent change	1.7	2.8	N/A
Labour Market			
Labour force	24,100	22,900(r)	23,700
Employment	23,200	21,700(r)	22,400
Unemployment rate (per cent)	3.7	5.2	5.5
Consumers			
Inflation (per cent)	2.0	1.0	3.3
Retail sales (\$millions)	865	892	946
Real Estate (Whitehorse)			
Total sales (\$millions)	308.2	342.1	386.9
Average detached house price	516,200	564,700	645,000

Approved by:



Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 21, 2022

Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**Tab 27****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Worker/Labour Shortage****Economic
Development**

Recommended response:

- We recognize the staffing challenges being faced by businesses here in the Yukon and across Canada.
- Across government we are undertaking a number of initiatives to increase worker attraction and retention, including:
 - Financial support for the construction of affordable housing;
 - Wage subsidies through the Staffing Up program to hire or train suitable but inexperienced workers for an existing job;
 - A temporary suspension of the advertising requirements for businesses seeking foreign nominees to help support Yukon businesses in urgent need of workers;
 - Employee attraction initiatives, including a recruitment brochure, being produced by Tourism and Culture, which will be available to any private sector organization looking to attract people to the Yukon; and
 - Securing an additional 40 spaces in the Yukon Nominee Program, increasing Yukon's total allocation for 2022 to 340.
- We have re-deployed labour market development supports from the Department of Education to the Department of Economic Development to centralize support, leverage the department's existing relationships with employers, and coordinate labour market development initiatives.

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Development

- On April 22, 2022, the Government of Canada announced several measures to address pressing labour needs in all sectors across Canada, including:
 - Resuming Express Entry draws;
 - Resuming invitations to apply for federal high-skilled streams;
 - Providing additional work permits of up to 18 months for post-graduation international students currently on a work permit; and
 - Facilitating the transition from temporary to permanent residency for those who submitted applications before the November 2021 deadline.

Additional response:

- We are using existing programs at Economic Development to support labour market development both at the sectoral level and at the level of the individual employer, including:
 - Sector specific training initiatives with Screen Production Yukon to support mentorship opportunities for Yukoners on the feature film *Polaris*
 - Support to Yukon Aboriginal Women's Circle for training programs to support Indigenous and high-risk people to develop the skills necessary to gain meaningful and long-term employment.

CONFIDENTIAL**Tab 27****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Worker/Labour Shortage****Economic
Development**

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Employers in Whitehorse and the communities continue to have trouble finding and retaining staff, which has been reported in the media multiple times throughout the winter.
 - Inability to secure staff is impacting businesses' ability to operate.
 - Job vacancies continue to rise across Canada, leading to a high demand for labour and a tight job market.
-

Background:

- The number of job vacancies in the Yukon was 1,320 in the fourth quarter of 2021, and the job vacancy rate was 6.6%. Both of those are increases from the first quarter but decreases from the second quarter of 2021.
 - The number of payroll employees in the Yukon in the fourth quarter of 2021 was 18,640, which is the highest it has been in the previous four quarters and an increase of 1,365 since the fourth quarter for 2020.
 - When including self-employed, Yukon Bureau of Statistics reports that total employment in Yukon was 22,600 in March 2022.
 - The average hourly wage offered by employers for vacant positions in the Yukon in the fourth quarter of 2021 was \$23.80, which is the lowest among the three territories, but the fifth highest in Canada.
 - The number of job vacancies across Canada continued to rise through the fourth quarter of 2021, reaching 915,545.
 - Five sectors – health care, construction, accommodation and food, retail trade and manufacturing – were driving the growth in job vacancies, with vacancies increasing more in low-wage occupations than in high-wage occupations.
-

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Development

- On April 22, 2022, IRCC announced several measures to ease labour shortages being experienced across Canada, including:
 - Resuming Express Entry draws with invitations for candidates to apply for permanent residence beginning in early July 2022;
 - Resuming invitations to apply for federal high-skilled streams, including the Canadian experience class, federal skilled worker class and federal skilled trades class in early July 2022;
 - Implementing a temporary policy to provide additional work permits of up to 18 months to post-graduation international students currently on a work permit expiring between January and December 2022; and
 - Several measures to facilitate applications made before the November 2021 deadline to transition from temporary to permanent residency.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 27, 2022

Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**Tab 29****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Russian Invasion of Ukraine and
Canadian Response**Economic
Development**Recommended response:**

- The Yukon condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. These actions are a blatant violation of international law, of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and of the Ukrainian people's right to determine their own future.
- Shortly after the invasion began, I wrote to the federal Immigration Minister, Sean Fraser, to express my support for a strong humanitarian response by Canada, and offer our support to include Ukrainian refugees in existing immigration programs.
- In the past weeks, I met with members of Yukon's Ukrainian community to hear their concerns and offer my support.
- On March 7, we launched a Ukrainian Family Support Desk to help Ukrainians seek residency in the Yukon and Canada. We're working to connect Ukrainians with federal programs and employment opportunities.
- As of April 25, the Ukrainian Family Support Desk has received ^{67 74} inquiries including ^{67 74} offers of humanitarian support (e.g., transportation, housing, translation), ^{67 74} offers of employment and ^{67 74} Ukrainian citizens seeking jobs and relocation to Yukon.
- On March 17 the Canadian government announced the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET) that will help Ukrainians and their families come to Canada as temporary residents for up to three years, while also providing the opportunity to work or study during that time.
- On April 22, 2022, Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven was launched by the Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance (CISSA-ACSEI) to

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bridge and link communications and resources with key stakeholders involved with supporting Ukrainians coming to Canada.

- Yukon strongly supports Canada's sanctions against senior Russian officials and key financial institutions, as well as export controls.

Additional response:

- The Yukon Liquor Corporation has ended the sale of Russian-produced products in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.
- We support all efforts by Canada, alongside NATO Allies and other likeminded countries, to bring an end to the fighting.
- This unjustified invasion has created a humanitarian disaster. The fighting has caused over two million people to flee the country, at least one million internally displaced, and hundreds of civilian casualties.

Context—this may be an issue because:

67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)

Background:

- On February 24, 2022, Russia launched an unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine. It followed months of military build-up since October 2021 that raised the number of Russian soldiers near Ukraine's borders to as many as 200,000.
- President Putin made unsubstantiated claims Ukraine was engaged in genocide, and asserted NATO was unwilling to accommodate legitimate Russian security interests.
- The invasion has created a humanitarian crisis. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates four million people could flee Ukraine. The following are current UNHCR estimates, with real figures inside Ukraine likely much higher.

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- 4.55 million have fled to neighbouring countries (April 11, 2022);
- At least 6.5 million are internally displaced (March 25, 2022);
- At least 3,893 civilian casualties, including 1,626 deaths (April 7, 2022).
- On April 22, 2022, the Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance (CISSA-ACSEI) launched a web portal termed *Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven* (ukrainiansafehaven.ca).
 - The portal allows all Canadians to support the arrival of displaced Ukrainians, including through cash donations, housing offers, employment opportunities and volunteer offers.

Canada's Response:

- **Immigration and Refugees:** Between January 1 and April 17, 19,628 Ukrainian citizens arrived in Canada. The CUAET has received 163,747 applications, with 56,633 approved as of April 19, 2022. Canada's new immigration measures include:
 - The announcement of two new immigration streams for Ukrainians to come to Canada temporarily or permanently:
 - The Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) for Ukrainian nationals fleeing Ukraine; and
 - A special family reunification sponsorship pathway for permanent residence;
 - Targeted charter flights, short-term income support, and temporary accommodations for CUAET applicants and to support European partners;
 - Urgent processing of travel documents for citizens, permanent residents & family;
 - Prioritizing applications from Ukraine for residence and citizenship;
 - Extending a temporary public policy to allow some visitors, including Ukrainians, to apply for a work permit from within Canada;
 - Implementing an administrative deferral of removals (ADR) for Ukraine to delay orders requiring persons to leave Canada;

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- Adding new ways for people to contact IRCC, including:
 - A dedicated channel for Ukraine for immigration inquiries accepting collect calls at 613-321-4243;
 - Prioritizing emails and web form submissions that include the “Ukraine2022” keyword;
 - A web page and email signup for current information on measures, including Ukrainian-language content for ease of reference; and
 - Expanded capacity at the Emergency Watch and Response Centre (EWRC) for 24/7 emergency consular assistance.
- **Economic measures:** Canada has implemented a range of economic measures since Russia’s illegal occupation of Crimea and a range of additional measures in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. These include:
 - New targeted sanctions against over 900 individuals and entities, including:
 - 18 members of Russia’s Security Council;
 - 70 listed individuals that are members of President Putin’s inner circle, close contacts or family members of individuals already sanctioned by Canada;
 - 521 members of the Russian Federation Council, the State Duma, and individuals associated with Rosneft and Gazprom;
 - 3 central financial agencies;
 - 94 financial, defense and energy institutions;
 - 4 Ukrainian disinformation agents; and
 - 75 close associates of Belarusian President Lukashenko’s regime.
 - On February 24, 2022, Canada imposed restrictions on exports to Russia, stopping the issuance of new export permits and cancelling existing permits for controlled goods and technology;

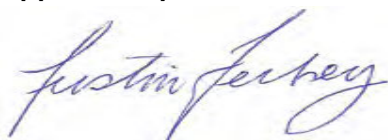
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- On March 6, a prohibition on Russian ships from docking in Canada or passing through Canadian waters was implemented;
 - On March 10, Canada imposed a petroleum products import ban; and
 - On April 5, Canada prohibited the provision of insurance-related services for Russian aviation and aerospace products.
- **Bilateral assistance:** Canada has recently announced several assistance packages to support Ukraine, including:
 - \$145 million in humanitarian assistance to help experienced partners address humanitarian needs in Ukraine and neighbouring countries;
 - \$25 million in military aid in response to a Ukrainian request, including protective equipment, lethal aid, and satellite and modern imagery;
 - \$10 million in lethal and non-lethal equipment and ammunition;
 - An offer of \$620 million in loans to support Ukraine's economic resilience in response to Russia's military build-up before February 24, 2022; and
 - On January 26, 2022, Canada announced \$340 million for support to Ukraine and for Canada's military training and capacity-building mission.
- **Diplomatic action:** Canada initiated several diplomatic initiatives in response to the crisis.
 - On March 3, 2022, Canada and 44 participating states invoked the Moscow Mechanism of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to send a mission of experts to assess the humanitarian impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine;
 - On March 2, 2022, Canada referred the situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court to investigate crimes in Ukraine by Russian forces;
 - Increased military contributions to NATO, including: an additional 460 personnel deployed to Europe; a battery of M777 artillery guns; an electronic warfare troop; a second frigate with embarked helicopter; a re-

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tasked CP-140 Aurora patrol aircraft; and authorization for 3400 personnel to deploy to the NATO Response Force, if required;

- Canada is actively working with allies and likeminded partners to coordinate a response to the crisis bilaterally and at international forums; and
- On April 7, the RCMP launched a national investigation into allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine.

Approved by:_____
Deputy Minister, Economic Development_____
April 27, 2022_____
Date approved

CONFIDENTIAL**Tab 81****Session Briefing Note****Spring 2022****Government of Yukon Immigration Programs**Economic
Development**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon administers two immigration programs in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC): The Yukon Business Nominee Program and the Yukon Nominee Program.
- Our government is utilizing its immigration programs to meet the identified needs of Yukon businesses, both urban and rural.
- In October 2021, IRCC conducted a reallocation exercise for all jurisdictions and the Yukon received 40 additional base spaces, bringing the total allocation available in 2021 to 340.
- Between January 1, 2022, and April 20, 2022, ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(} new candidates have been approved; ^{67 74} Critical Impact Workers, ^{67 74} Skilled Workers and five (5) Express Entry. This represents a 200 percent increase compared to 2019.
- The Yukon is participating in the Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP) to job match skilled refugees from Africa with Yukon employers. The Yukon has recommended to IRCC to expand the pilot to include potential Ukrainian refugees.
- IRCC announced on April 22, 2022 that it will resume Express Entry draws, provide additional work permits for post-graduation international students, and facilitate the transition from temporary to permanent residency to address pressing labour needs in all sectors across the country.
- The Yukon condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and will support Canada's

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humanitarian and refugee response, including the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET) and the urgent processing and prioritization of travel documents and applications from Ukraine.

Additional response:

- In 2021, the Yukon Nominee Program utilized its entire annual allocations of 300 spaces for the first time since the inception of the program. We utilized the entire base allocation of 230 nominations for a third consecutive year, demonstrating the value it delivers to both employers and nominees.
- On March 7, we launched a Ukrainian Family Support Desk to help Ukrainians seek residency in the Yukon and Canada. We're working to connect Ukrainians with federal programs and employment opportunities.
- As of April 12, the Ukrainian Family Support Desk has received 95 inquiries including 22 offers of humanitarian support (e.g., transportation, housing, translation), 19 offers of employment and 15 Ukrainian citizens seeking jobs and relocation to the Yukon.
- In 2022, the Yukon set up a dedicated Ukrainian family support desk that provides help and resources for people impacted by the ongoing situation in Ukraine.

The Yukon Business Nominee Program (YBNP):

- The Yukon Business Nominee Program aims to attract and retain skilled international entrepreneurs, who inject new capital and business expertise into the Yukon's economy, creating job

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opportunities and enhancing economic diversification and growth within the territory.

- The program has successfully attracted entrepreneurs to the hospitality, service, tourism, arts and agricultural sectors in Dawson City, Mayo, Faro, Haines Junction and Whitehorse.
- Between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021, ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)} business concepts have been accepted into the selection pool with a total potential investment of ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}.

The Yukon Nominee Program (YNP):

- The Yukon Nominee Program helps employers fill crucial positions with foreign nationals who intend to settle in the Yukon and gain Permanent Resident status. The Yukon's economic growth depends on having enough skilled and qualified people to meet labour market needs.
- Between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021: ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)} Critical Impact Workers; ^{67 74} Skilled Workers and ^{67 74} Express Entry were approved through the program.
- On February 10, 2022 we announced a temporary suspension of the advertising requirements for businesses seeking foreign nominees through the program. This change will be in place until June 30, 2022 to help support Yukon businesses in urgent need of workers.

The Yukon Community Program (YCP):

- The Yukon Community Program launched in June 2020 as a new stream of the Yukon Nominee Program to provide flexibility to employers in rural communities, where seasonal and part-time work is

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a fundamental part of the local economy and essential for local economic development.

- Up to 50 candidates can be nominated through the program enabling them to work in one of the participating communities of Dawson City, Carmacks, Carcross, Haines Junction, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.
- Between June 1, 2020, and January 25, 2022, four candidates have been approved through the program – two in Whitehorse, one in Dawson City and one in Haines Junction.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Labour shortages have been a concern to many employers in recent years. The Yukon's unemployment rate remains among the lowest in Canada.

Background:

- On April 22, 2022, IRCC announced several measures to ease labour shortages being experienced across Canada, including:
 - Resuming Express Entry draws with invitations for candidates to apply for permanent residence beginning in early July 2022;
 - Resuming invitations to apply for federal high-skilled streams, including the Canadian experience class, federal skilled worker class and federal skilled trades class in early July 2022;
 - Implementing a temporary policy to provide additional work permits of up to 18 months to post-graduation international students currently on a work permit expiring between January and December 2022; and
 - Several measures to facilitate applications made before the November 2021 deadline to transition from temporary to permanent residency.

The Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot:

- In 2018, IRCC launched EMPP (Phase One) to identify possible candidates registered with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

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- The Yukon was one of five jurisdictions, including Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario that partnered with IRCC in the creation and implementation of EMPP.
- EMPP is not a new pathway, but rather facilitation for the recruitment and processing of qualified refugee candidates through existing economic pathways, such as the Yukon Nominee Program (YNP).
- The goals and benefits of EMPP are to provide durable solutions for refugees with the skills and qualifications that Canadian employers need; raise awareness among Canadian employers about the untapped potential of the skilled talent pool; and address the labour shortages that Canada has been experiencing.
- IRCC works with foreign non-governmental organizations to first identify qualified candidates who meet certain eligibility criteria, and then the candidates apply online through IRCC.
- The Yukon's role in EMPP is to assist IRCC with facilitating job matching where possible, identifying the labour market needs, and building awareness among employers of refugees as a talent pool.
- The target of Phase One was to identify ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)} skilled refugees in East Africa and the Middle East with strong economic establishment potential.
- Up to September 2021 ^{67 74} individuals, including ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)} principal applicants and their families, had arrived in Canada through Phase One implementation.
- During Phase One, ^{67 74} candidates were referred to the Yukon but with no successful match. Inconsistent logistics arrangement and constant problem solving from IRCC were the main causes.
- In June 2021, IRCC announced EMPP – Phase Two, a two-year phase with a goal of admitting up to ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)} applications.
- Phase Two is a two-staged implementation. First stage runs from December 2021 to June 30, 2022 with a cap of ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)} applications. Second stage starts from July 1, 2022 with a cap of ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)} applications.

Vital Stats:


- There are currently four streams under the YNP: Critical Impact Worker, Skilled Worker, Express Entry and the Yukon Community Program (end date June 2023).

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- The Yukon's annual allocation from the federal government for the YNP in 2021 was 300 persons ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)} Base, ^{67 74} Enhanced, and ^{67 74} in the NOC C Initiative).
- IRCC conducts a redistribution of allocation exercise in the fall every year where all jurisdictions provide IRCC with the number of allocations they would like to receive or surrender. In October 2021, the Yukon requested and received 40 additional base spaces through this one-time redistribution process bringing the total allocations available to Yukon in 2021 to 340.
- The average application processing time for nominee applications in 2021 was 65 days (about 9 weeks).
- In 2021, YNP approved nominations for ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)} nominees. This consists of:
 - Critical Impact Workers – ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}
 - Skilled Workers – ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}
 - Express Entry – ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}
 - Yukon Business Nominee Program - ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}
- Top five countries of origin for the YNP in 2021:
 - India – ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}
 - Philippines – ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}
 - France – ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}
 - Japan – ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}
 - China – ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}
- Top five occupations filled by nominees in 2020:
 - Food Counter Attendants, Kitchen Helpers and Related Occupations – ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}
 - Cashiers – ^{67 74}
 - Retail Salespersons and Clerks - ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}
 - Early Childhood Educator – ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}
 - Grocery Clerks and Store Shelf Stockers - ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)}

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- Since 2007, the YNP has received applications from over ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)} employers to address labour shortages, approving ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)} principal nominees to date.
- Since 2004, ^{67 74} candidates have been nominated for Permanent Residence through the Yukon business nominee program, establishing ^{67 74} businesses and investing ^{67(3)(a), 74(1)(a)} in the Yukon.
- The Yukon Business Nominee Program participants are required to contribute a minimum of \$300,000 to their business in the Yukon, and have a minimum verifiable net worth of \$500,000, to ensure their business' viability.
- Although immigration may be a factor in resolving seasonal labour shortages in the Yukon, there are other challenges, such as housing and community retention, which may constrain the availability of seasonal workers.
- Once a nominee has received their Permanent Resident status they are no longer part of the Yukon Nominee Program; and the Yukon does not actively collect information on whether nominees remain within the territory.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Economic Development

April 27, 2022

Date approved