

T&C Department	
7	Accomplishments
8	Mandate Letter
9	Budget 2025-26
10	Funding Programs
11	Stakeholder Annual Funding

Culture	
20	Archives
21	Arts and Heritage Collections
22	Arts Unit
23	Creative Potential (CCIS)
24	Cultural Centres & Museum Funding
25	Discoveries / paleo / artifacts
26	Geographical Place Names
27	Heritage FNCC & Museums Unit
28	Highway Rest Areas / Outhouses
29	Historic Sites Unit
30	South Canol Historic Reserve
31	40 Mile Historic Site

Hot Topics	
1	Convention Centre
2	Canyon Creek Bridge
3	Response to US Political Climate

Tourism	
12	Yukon Visitation & Revenues
13	Community Tourism Development
14	Marketing
15	Visitor Information Centres
16	Indigenous Tourism
17	Emergencies and Tourism
18	Whitehorse Intl Airport / Runway HPW
19	Airport Impacts on Tourism

YG Corporate	
32	Budget Initiative (FIN)
33	2024-25 Supplementary Overview (FIN)
34	Carbon Pricing (ENV-FIN)
35	Inflation (FIN)
36	Our Clean Future (ENV)
37	Housing Landscape (YHC)
38	Truth and Reconciliation (ECO)
39	Eagle Gold-Impacts (EMR-FIN-ECO)
40	Canada-US Relations (ECO)

Session Briefing Note

New Convention Centre

TAB # 1
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- I am pleased to share that the Government of Yukon has committed \$18.75 million toward the Yukon Gathering Place, our new convention centre, set to become a major economic and community hub in Whitehorse.
- As was announced by the federal government on March 22, the Canadian Northern and Economic Development Agency is providing \$56.25 million in funding for the new space.
- Developed in partnership with the Government of Canada and Chu Níkwän LP - the economic development arm of Kwanlin Dün First Nation- the Yukon Gathering Place will attract conferences, trade shows and events that boost local businesses and tourism across the Yukon.

Additional response:

- Increased visitor spending is expected to support jobs in hospitality, transportation, and event planning while strengthening Whitehorse's economy.
- Beyond its role as a convention centre, the facility will serve as a space for cultural and community activities, including festivals, meetings and celebrations. This ensures year-round benefits for both residents and visitors.
- The new Convention Centre will have a capacity of 750 to 1000 guests and can generate an economic impact of \$800 to \$1000 per guest for three to five days of events.

Session Briefing Note

New Convention Centre

Spring 2025

Tourism and Culture

Context—this may be an issue because: There is strong interest in this project from the public, the tourism industry and the general business community.

Background:

- Following the Request for Proposals in 2023, Kwanlin Dün's Chu Níkwän Development Corporation (CNLP) emerged as the highest- ranked proponent.
- The current economic impact of meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE) on the Yukon is \$7.1 M/year. The Yukon Convention Bureau has modeled the community economic impact from an expanded MICE market at around \$20 M/year after 5yrs of successful operations.
- Differentiating factors in favour of CNLP included venue size, overall event capacity, cost, location, leveraging KDCC facilities, Yukon First Nation involvement and long-term operational viability.
- Late fall 2023, YCB/YG/CNLP signed an LOI. It includes two phases: one to deliver a schematic design, design program and C-Level estimate and another to negotiate a development agreement and operational agreement.
- In the summer of 2024, we saw the completion of phase one, the Design Program, Schematic Design and C-level estimate. Phase 2 will begin now that funding has been secured.
- The RFP issued on March 10, 2023, sought proposals from proponents who have access to land in the Whitehorse area suitable for a convention centre with capacity of 750 to 1000 attendees.
- This project has been identified as a priority item in the 2023 Mandate Letter.
- The decision to proceed with the Convention Centre project was based on:
 1. Industry Advocacy and Support
 2. Market Research – Availability of Land
 3. Economic Spin-Offs
 4. Meeting Industry Analysis and Trends

Session Briefing Note

New Convention Centre

Spring 2025

Tourism and Culture

Need for a New Convention Centre:

- Due to a lack of suitable convention space, the Yukon is currently turning down MICE business (Meetings, Incentive travel, Conferences and Events). MICE business is a strong economic driver, contributing to year-round, high-yield tourism visitation. The Yukon's former convention centre was too small to meet demand and is no longer operating.
- A new convention centre will lead to a range of benefits. In addition to being a visitor destination, it will be a gathering place for Yukoners to hold local events and festivals, which are currently constrained by a lack of sufficient venues.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

March 27, 2025
[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Canyon Creek Bridge**Tourism Culture

Recommended response:

- The historic Canyon Creek Bridge across the Aishihik river is a notable landmark along the Alaska Highway, but decay and significant safety concerns now necessitate decisions and action.
- Based on a 2023 engineering report the bridge was deemed unsafe for pedestrians or any other traffic. Signage indicating closure and barriers were erected to stop access to the bridge.
- The engineering report identifies options which include repair, replacement or partial demolition of the bridge.
- The YESAB review process for partial demolition of the bridge will ensure that the department can react quickly if the structure worsens.
- The department hosted a meeting in Haines Junction in late February to hear feedback from the community.
- The YESAB process has closed, and the department is now awaiting the decision documents.

Additional response:

- The bridge was digitally scanned and recorded for posterity and interpretation, and all data necessary is available to reconstruct the bridge in the future, if desired and feasible.
- If partial demolition becomes necessary, the existing log abutments will remain in place to show where the bridge once stood and will assist in heritage interpretation.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The project is awaiting the YESAB final decision documents, and some Yukoners are interested in the future of the bridge.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Canyon Creek Bridge**Tourism Culture

- The YESAB submission includes various options for the the bridge. In every alternative, some demolition is inevitable due to structural decay.
-

Background:

- Canyon Creek Bridge was first constructed across the Aishihik River in 1904 as part of the Kluane Wagon Road, providing access to the Kluane region.
- It was rebuilt by the United States 18th Corps of Engineers in 1942, but the highway was diverted in 1943 and a new permanent bridge was constructed approximately 75 meters south of the historic bridge.
- Since 1943, the bridge has been used recreationally by locals and visitors, primarily by quads, snow machines and foot traffic.
- The Yukon government undertook conservation work on the bridge in 1987 and 2009.
- The current bridge is the only one remaining from the 1942 “Engineers Road” and is the only wooden Alaska Highway bridge remaining in the Yukon.
- The bridge crosses the Aishihik River (previously called Canyon Creek) to Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) settlement land. CAFN has been involved in the planning of the site and is aware of the need to remove the bridge.
- The Department of Tourism and Culture maintains an interpretive pull-out at the site.
- Reviews conducted by ISL Engineering in 2020 and 2021 concluded that the existing bridge had a remaining service life of 3 – 5 years. An inspection in 2023 recommended the bridge be closed to the public. The Historic Sites Unit immediately erected signs and barriers.
- Although the risk of global structural failure was deemed not likely, the YESAB submission will ensure that the department can react quickly if the situation changes, and we need to remove the structure to avoid risks to life and/or property.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Canyon Creek Bridge**Tourism Culture

- The YESAB submission offers options for the bridge: partial demolition keeping historical abutments; short-term shoring up with repairs; full reconstruction with new abutments; preservation of salvageable components and construct new bridge.
- Partial demolition is required regardless of which option is ultimately chosen.
- The bridge is not a designated historic site, but sits on a heritage reserve, created in 1965.
- The bridge is an asset managed by Tourism and Culture. Highways and Public Works was not involved since it sits outside the highway right-of-way.
- In a 2023 Heritage Reserves Report, Canyon Creek Bridge was identified as a High Value/Medium Opportunity site that should be conserved as an interpretive installation along the Alaska Highway

Approved by:Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

April 23, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Tourism and Culture Response to US Political Climate

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Yukon government recognizes that the situation with US-Canada relations is constantly evolving. We are watching and adapting to the situation and remain flexible as circumstances require a new response.
- While we may disagree with the U.S. administration, we deeply value the longstanding relationship we share with our American neighbours and the many visitors who choose to experience the beauty, culture, and hospitality of the Yukon each year.
- American visitors make an important contribution to the territory's tourism revenue and have already spent more in January and February than ever before.
- So, whether we're encountering our US visitors at sporting events, campgrounds or even just the grocery store, let's **lead with kindness**.

Context—this may be an issue because:

Travel demographics are shifting in response to the American political situation, and anti-American sentiment has been reported by residents of Alaska.

Additional response:

- In 2025 year-to-date spending, US visitors spent \$13.3M in January and February. This is a 33.5 per cent increase over 2024 and is more than any other tourism market.
- In terms of the department's marketing decisions and resources, we are in regular contact with Destination Canada, the federal organization which markets Canada internationally that leads marketing investment opportunities for US

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Tourism and Culture Response to US Political Climate

Tourism and Culture

markets. This engagement ensures we are able to respond immediately as required.

- Of the department's \$4M marketing budget, around 9% goes to the US market through the collaboration with Destination Canada and other partners, 61% to the domestic market, and 30% to international markets, including Mexico.
- Our priority is to continue offering meaningful, high-quality experiences that resonate with a diverse range of visitors.
- We're closely monitoring trends and feedback to ensure we remain welcoming, inclusive and prepared to meet the needs of both our traditional markets and potential new ones as they emerge.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

April 23, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****TC Accomplishments**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

The department of Tourism and Culture has been continuing to promote our Yukon cultural artists and products and our tourism businesses, Indigenous tourism, and Visitor Information Centres.

Highlights over the past six months include:

- Yukon Archives' public hours have been extended to better serve residents, visitors, and researchers. Yukon Archives has initiated bimonthly mini exhibits and facilitated genealogy workshops for Kwanlin Dün First Nation youth as well as for Yukon First Nation Education Directorate (YFNED)'s Early Years parenting workshop series.
- Yukon Archives, with the approval of the Heritage Working Group, has waived all fees for individuals that self-identify as Yukon First Nation, Transboundary First Nation who have traditional territory in the Yukon, or Inuvialuit for digital copier reproductions and digital file reproductions of any materials in Yukon Archives' holdings when requested for personal use (research, non-commercial project, or commercial project). Yukon First Nation and Transboundary First Nation governments are also able to request a waiver of fees independently from this policy.
- Yukon Archives added significant collections in 2024 including the Whitehorse Star fonds (22 m of photos and published materials), the Bill and Ruth Albee fonds (243 coloured slides and negatives and 2 films from a 1940 Yukon trip with many images of Kaska people that have not yet been shared publicly), the Yukon Quest fonds (11 boxes from 1985-2024), the Northern Airways Ltd. (NAL) fonds (3.5 m of records documenting early aviation history in the Yukon, specifically from the Northern Airways building in Carcross, covering the years 1927 to 1950) and the Ken Faught fonds (1205 photographs from the late 1970s-early

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

TC Accomplishments

Tourism and Culture

1980s featuring the Frantic Follies of Whitehorse and Gaslight Follies of Dawson City).

- The Government of Yukon has expanded the Yukon Permanent Art Collection with 14 new works of art in 2024-25, reflecting the territory's vibrant artistic community. This is part of a broader CCIS initiative that includes doubling the minimum annual budget for acquisitions to \$60,000, enhancing support for the arts and ensuring diverse artistic expressions are showcased and preserved. An exhibit of the new works was installed in the Yukon Arts Centre community gallery in fall 2024.
- The Government of Yukon hosted nine professional development workshops for artists in 2024-25. A range of online and in-person, workshop topics included photographing your artwork, income streams for artists, design strategies, art handling and installation, taxes for artists and a visual arts meet-up.
- The Marketing Unit of Tourism and Culture launched the innovative "Yukon: It's a Little Bit Metal" campaign, showcasing the Yukon's rugged winter experiences in an inviting manner. The campaign generated over 1.4 million YouTube views, was featured at the Juno Awards, and won a Bronze Clio Award for Audiocraft in April 2024, marking the Yukon's first Clio Award recognition. It highlighted strong collaboration, local talent, and a commitment to diversity. The campaign was relaunched in fall 2024 to further enhance the Yukon's reputation as a premier winter destination. The campaign has received several other industry award wins and nominations, including Campaign Canada's Mighty List, in which they highlight their 10 favourite campaigns of the past year.
- The Government of Yukon, in partnership with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, has completed a conservation plan of Ch'édähdëk (Forty Mile) Historic Site, which was damaged by an ice jam in May 2023. With ERA Architects Inc.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****TC Accomplishments**Tourism and Culture

leading the planning and engagement process, the plan ensures the conservation efforts reflect local and cultural perspectives. The finalized conservation plan aims to guide the site's preservation and future management.

- The Yukon Palaeontology Program successfully excavated an early, rare steppe mammoth in the Klondike Goldfields in collaboration with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and research partners from the University of Alberta.
- The Yukon Palaeontology Program conducted field research in the Old Crow region in collaboration with the Vuntut Gwitchin and Stockholm University, Centre for Palaeogenetics.
- The Yukon Palaeontology Program established a partnership between First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Yukon Geological Survey Dartmouth College, and Florida State University to manage and carry out further research on Ediacaran fossil sites that are located northeast of Mayo.
- Archaeology Program continued a multi-year collaborative project in Old Crow region with partners Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation, University of Kansas, Kansas Geological Survey, and University of Calgary.
- Activities at the Bluefish Caves archaeological site included excavation of Cave 4 with analysis of site sediments including ancient DNA, as well as digital documentation through drone aerial imaging and 3D terrestrial laser scanning to produce digital site documentation and immersive interpretive materials.
- Various localities in Old Crow region were visited to document climate change-related effects to archaeological resources and many new sites were identified and recorded. Helicopter support was provided through a \$150,000 grant from the federal government Polar Continental Shelf Program. Twenty VGFN citizens toured Bluefish Caves during community site visits. Premier Ranj Pillai and Chief Pauline Frost also visited the site.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

TC Accomplishments

Tourism and Culture

- Archaeology Program, with support from First Nation partners were successful in the creation and passing of an Order-in-Council (OIC) prohibiting entry for mineral staking within four significant ice patch archaeological site complexes. The OIC will help protect these sensitive areas of incredible heritage values from conflicts with industrial land use activities.

Strategies continue:

Two guiding strategies continue to lead our department's work: the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS) and the Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy (CCIS), and I am pleased to report we have made significant progress in advancing a number of strategic actions.

- In terms of the YTDS, we are proud of our Community Tourism Destination Development Fund and Spark Tourism Microgrant, which have been enhancing and creating strong tourism services and experiences across the Yukon. This year, we modernized the Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund, which has been very well received. We are seeing stronger and more strategic investments in the marketing, promotion and development being undertaken by Yukon tourism businesses.
- Notably, 2024 tourism spending in the Yukon reported by Destination Canada's Tourism Data Collective surpassed 2019 levels (the previous record year). We expect to achieve the YTDS goal of doubling the gross revenue attributed to tourism to \$525 million in 2028.
- With respect to the CCIS, we have made significant progress in a short period of time in implementing Phase 1 of the strategy, which means we are well on our way to growing the Yukon's culture GDP beyond 2% as it was in 2018. Some of our actions to this end include modernizing existing

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

TC Accomplishments

Tourism and Culture

funding; offering new funding streams; industry branding and promotion; marketing and export strategies; labour market supports; and workshops.

Background:**1. Implementing the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS)**

- In the 2024-25 intake, the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund approved funding for 14 Tier 1 projects and 10 Tier 2 projects, with \$403,070 allocated to Tier 1 projects and \$1,138,770 allocated to Tier 2 projects. 90% of the projects are in communities or regions outside of Whitehorse, and 5 projects are Indigenous-owned or led. Projects range from building new tourism infrastructure to developing new tourism experiences. **(see also Tab 13 – Community Tourism Destination Development)**.
- Spark Tourism Micro-grant provides grants up to \$5,000 to new and emerging tourism businesses. With two intakes in 2024 (June, October), Spark supported 23 emerging tourism experiences or services. The development of outstanding visitor experiences was identified as a pillar of the YTDS.
- With support from the department, the Yukon Convention Bureau (YCB) issued an RFP for the development of a new convention centre in Whitehorse. Following the Request for Proposals, Kwanlin Dün's Chu Níkwän Development Corporation (CNLP) emerged as the highest ranked proponent. **(see also Tab 1 – New Convention Centre)**
- The department launched the first iteration of the Yukon Sustainable Tourism Dashboard in 2024. We published the 2022 Yukon Sustainable Tourism Annual Report to share a diverse set of data that is intended to help measure and monitor the impacts of tourism on the environment. We are currently working on the 2023 and 2024 reports.
- In 2024/25, Tourism conducted over 75 tourism-related outreach initiatives in twelve Yukon communities. This included Tourism Cafés, Tourism Reconnects, Workshops, community visits, and site visits to Yukon businesses.
- Under Action 4.1: Market the Yukon as a Year-Round Tourism Destination, Tourism and Culture promoted Yukon tourism businesses:

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****TC Accomplishments**Tourism and Culture

- through a wide variety of global promotional initiatives in Canada, Mexico, UK, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Australia;
- the Honouring our Futures Graduation Regalia Exhibition at Canada House in London, England;
- digital marketing initiatives including partnerships with content creators, such as Yukoner Eryn MacGillivray and national and international influencers;
- content collaborations with Yukon businesses, such as North of Ordinary podcasts, Yukon Rendezvous, Eclipse Nordic Hotsprings and Sport Yukon;
- consumer marketing campaigns in North America including multi-awarded “Yukon it’s a Little Bit Metal” Campaign in October 2024;
- Life Changing Lights Campaign (USA) promoting Northern Lights viewing in northern Canada in partnership with Destination Canada, Tourism NWT and Travel Manitoba;
- The Summer is Not Over Campaign in support of Dawson City businesses during the July 2024 forest fires.
- Tourism and Culture works with the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB) to advise the Minister on the implementation of the YTDS. The department values the input from YTAB and continues to engage the Board regularly.

**2. Implementing the Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy (CCIS)
(see also Tab # 23 – Creative Potential (CCIS))**

- In May 2023, the department released the first progress report on implementation of Phase One of the 10-year CCIS strategy, which was released in late 2021.
- The primary focus of Phase One is assessing and addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and positioning the sector within Yukon’s broader economic recovery.
- Some highlights of progress to date include:
 - A \$750,000 increase to Media Development funding for content creators, including \$250,000 for the Performing Musicians Fund and \$500,000 for Media Funding Programs (Economic Development funds);

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

TC Accomplishments

Tourism and Culture

- \$375,000 in funding was introduced through the launch of three programs: the Express Micro-grant, the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant and the Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund;
- In December 2022, created and hired Indigenous Outreach Liaison position under MOU with Canada Council for the Arts to improve funding program delivery and increase engagement with Indigenous artists and cultural carriers;
- A new policy for First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums was completed in February 2024.
- In January 2025, the department issued a contract to identify datasets to regularly report on the progress of Yukon's creative and cultural industries.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

March 11, 2025

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Mandate Letter Commitments

Tourism and Culture

Recommended Response

- As Minister of Tourism and Culture, the commitments in my mandate letter are key priorities for myself and for the department.
- I am pleased to report that we continue to make significant progress in achieving these public commitments - for the benefit of our local culture and tourism sectors, which play a key role in the continued diversification and growth of the territorial economy and in maintaining a high standard of living in the Yukon.

Background

- The 2023 Mandate Letter puts forwards seven commitments to the Minister of Tourism and Culture. Progress to date on these commitments includes the following:
 - 1) Continue working in collaboration with the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB) to implement the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS).**
 - a) Thriving Tourism Economy – Supporting Interline agreements, supporting hotel development, developing the Convention Centre.
 - b) Sustainable Tourism Development – Created funds for sustainable tourism projects in the communities.
 - c) Resident support for Tourism – Sharing the benefits of tourism with residents in the communities through community engagement.
 - 2) Collaborate with industry partners with a focus on:**
 - a) Developing a tourism product inventory.
 - In collaboration with the Tourism Industry of Yukon Association, a product inventory is expected for Spring 2025.
 - b) Developing Indigenous tourism products.
 - T&C was approved by Destination Canada to be a participant jurisdiction for the Corridors program.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Mandate Letter Commitments

Tourism and Culture

- First phase of feasibility study has been completed for an Indigenous tourism lodge network around parts of the Yukon and NWT,
- Two pilot projects in the Territories have been identified and are working on a standards model and the feasibility of a reservation system.
- c) Recruiting and training staff.
 - The department is making strategic investments in the development of winter tourism to foster sustainable year-round businesses as well as support projects to expand employee housing.

3) Stimulate destination development with an emphasis on expanding visitor infrastructure including:

- a) A new Convention Centre in Whitehorse
 - Government of Canada announced \$ 56. 25M on March 22, 2025 funding to support the establishment of a convention centre.
- b) The establishment of tourism corridors; and new and improved accommodation and lodge networks.
 - June 2023- T&C was approved by Destination Canada as a participant jurisdiction for the pilot Corridors program. Funding has been received to conduct a feasibility study for an “Indigenous tourism lodge network” around parts of the Yukon and NWT, now underway.
- c) Increased tourism capacity in Yukon communities.
 - As of November 2024, the Community Tourism Destination Development (CTDD) Fund has supported 43 projects to date. Approximately ninety percent of the projects are in communities or regions outside of Whitehorse and range from building new tourism infrastructure to developing new tourism experiences. 10 Yukon First Nation-owned/led and 17 LGBT2S+ and female-owned/led projects are represented

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Mandate Letter Commitments

Tourism and Culture

- The Spark Tourism Micro grant was launched in the Spring 2024, to support the development of new and emerging entrepreneurs offering visitor experiences and services within the Yukon's tourism sector, with a focus on community tourism development (19 projects in 8 communities).
- 4) **Support the research, preservation, interpretation, and assessment of our historic places by working closely with Yukon First Nations governments, municipalities, and communities (See Tab #27 Heritage, First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums Unit and Tab #29 Historic Sites Unit).**
- Work with First Nations, municipalities and community partners continues to advance projects including:
 - Ice Patch- An administrative reserve was established in key Ice Patch areas and a Prohibition of Entry OIC for these areas was assented to on June 27, 2024.
 - The department worked closely with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to develop a Conservation Plan for flood damaged Forty Mile Historic Site.
 - Collaborative Heritage Management - work with First Nations is proceeding in discussions around collaborative heritage management, including for palaeontology. Work is underway to consider non-regulatory fossil management strategies.
- 5) **Continue to advance the establishment of a heritage resource centre for the conservation and protection of Yukon's archaeological, paleontological, and cultural artifacts. (Tab #21 Arts and Heritage Collections)**
- A functional plan was developed identifying the needs of the collections and collections staff. The department continues to explore various options for a facility.
- 6) **Finalize and implement the new Cultural Centres and Museums policy to ensure these important facilities are supported into the future. (See Tab #24 Cultural Centres and Museums Funding)**

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Mandate Letter Commitments

Tourism and Culture

- The new Policy on Yukon First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums was approved by the Minister and is now complete. It was shared with the sector in April 2024. A funding review for not-for-profit and municipal museums has been completed and the sector received an increase to operational funding in 2025-26.

7) Continue to implement Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries to support the growth and development of the creative and cultural industries in the Yukon. (See Tab #23 Creative Potential (CCIS))

- T&C launched three new programs: Express Micro-grant, the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant, and the Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund. The partnership with Canada Council for the Arts to fund the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant has been extended for two years based on its success to date.
- Over 30 professional development workshops for the creative and cultural sector have been offered by the department since 2022.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

April 23, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Budget 2025-26

TAB # 9
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Our priority for 2025-26 is to support, promote and enhance the Yukon's tourism, culture, heritage and arts sectors for the benefit of Yukoners and visitors.
- For 2025-26, the Department of Tourism and Culture has a budget of \$34M. This is no change over the restated 2024-25 Main Estimates.

Operations and Maintenance:

- The 2025-26 budget includes **\$32.1M** for operations and maintenance, which is \$215k more than the 2024-25 restated Main Estimates.
- Key O&M investments include:
 - \$1.6M towards the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund;
 - \$550,000 in support of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy;
 - \$358,000 in new fully recoverable arts funding;
 - \$319,000 towards the implementation of Creative Potential, the creative and cultural industries strategy; and
 - \$200,000 in new funding for museums and First Nations cultural centres.

Capital

- The 2025-26 budget includes approximately **\$1.8M** for capital. This is a **decrease of \$364,000** over the 2024-25 Main Estimates.
- Key capital projects are:
 - \$600,000 in support of our consumer marketing strategy for content acquisition and the Travel Yukon website;

Session Briefing Note

Budget 2025-26

TAB # 9

Spring 2025

Tourism and Culture

- \$400,000 for the maintenance, restoration and protection of historic properties; and
- \$350,000 towards art vault upgrades at the Yukon Arts Centre.

Background: See attached tables

Department of Tourism and Culture		
Operations & Maintenance (in \$000's)	2024-25 Main Estimates*	2025-26 Main Estimates
Corporate Services Branch	2,958	2,974
Cultural Services Branch	15,481	16,098
Tourism Branch	13,477	13,059
Total	31,916	32,131
Capital	2024-25 Main Estimates	2025-26 Main Estimates
Corporate Services Branch	10	22
Cultural Services Branch	1,574	1,183
Tourism Branch	635	650
Total	2,219	1,855
Revenues and Recoveries	2024-25 Main Estimates	2025-26 Main Estimates
Revenues	76	76
Recoveries	717	1,075
Total	793	1,151

*Restated

2024-25 Restatements:

- \$75,000 Cultural Industries Training Fund transferred from EcDev; and
- (\$147,000) Photography Unit transferred to ECO.

Approved By:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Department of Tourism and Culture Funding Programs

Contents

Cultural Services Branch

Arts Unit

Advanced Artist Award (AAA)	2
Arts Fund (AF).....	3
Arts Operating Funds (AOF)	4
Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund (CCCAF)	5
Cultural Industries Training Fund (CITF)	6
Culture Quest (CQ)	7
Express Micro-grant.....	8
Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant.....	9
New Canadians Event Fund (NCEF).....	10
Touring Artist Fund (TAF)	11
Historic Sites Unit	
Historic Properties Assistance Program (HPA)	12
Yukon Historic Resources Fund (YHRF).....	13
Heritage Unit	
Museum Contribution Program (MCP)	14
Special Projects Capital Assistance Program (SPCAP)	15

Tourism Branch

Destination Development Unit

Community Tourism Destination Development Fund (CTDD)	16
Spark Tourism Microgrant (Spark).....	17
Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund (TCMF)	18

Advanced Artist Award (AAA)

Provides funding for creating, training, and developing the artistic skills of Yukon artists who have attained a senior level of practice. Funding assists with innovative projects, travel or educational pursuits. The award is available for all artistic disciplines, including First Nation traditional arts.

Eligibility: Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada, who have lived in the Yukon for at least one continuous year prior to the award deadline. In addition, an applicant must be considered to be an artist working at an advanced level and have a history of publicly-presented work. 'A' and 'B' level artists should show that their reach or impact extends beyond Yukon, while also contributing to Yukon culture.

Decision-making: A peer jury of other advanced artists review applications for funding. The jury is composed of different members for each intake.

Intake: Two application deadlines per year – April 1st and October 1st.

Budget: \$150,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Up to \$5,000 for level B and up to \$10,000 for level A. A-level artists generally have a greater and farther reach of presentation than B-level artists.

Administration: Arts Unit

Arts Fund (AF)

Supports group projects that foster creative development and public engagement in the arts in the Yukon. Projects vary, but may include workshops, special initiatives, performances and event production.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include registered Yukon non-profit organizations, artist collectives, community associations, industry associations, First Nations governments, school councils, local advisory councils, and municipal governments planning an activity related to the literary, visual or performing arts.

Decision-making: The Yukon Arts Advisory Council reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Minister.

Intake: Four application deadlines per year – the 15th of March, June, September and December.

Budget: \$500,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Applicants may request up to a maximum of 70% of eligible project expenses. The funding requested should be proportionate to the impact of the applicant's project and based on realistic figures.

Administration: Arts Unit

Arts Operating Funds (AOF)

Longer-term support to arts organizations that contribute to the development and enhancement of the arts in the Yukon. This funding program promotes stability within established organizations that develop and sustain Yukon's arts community, fostering vitality and long-term health of the arts. It supports arts organizations towards sustainable and effective planning, governance, and allocation of human and financial resources to meet their artistic mandates and activities. The fund consists of an Annual Operating Component and an Annual Project Component.

Eligibility - Operating Component: A Yukon non-profit society with on-going and year-round activities primarily engaged in literary, visual or performing arts activities AND activities of the society have a territorial impact. OR, a society that is recognized as an umbrella arts organization AND activities of the society have a territorial impact.

Eligibility - Project Component: Yukon non-profit societies, First Nations, school councils, municipal governments, local advisory councils, and industry associations with an arts-focused project that meets the following criteria:

- The project fosters the creative development of the arts in the Yukon and supports the Yukon Arts Policy principles;
- The project is arts-focused, including literary, visual or performing arts; and,
- The project is an established annual activity (at least three years).

Decision-making: The Yukon Arts Advisory Council reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Minister.

Intake: One application deadline per year – February 15th.

Budget: \$1,183,000 available each year. A portion of this budget will be committed to multi-year agreements each year. The fund increases by \$358,000 in 2025-26. The increase is fully recoverable from Lotteries Yukon.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): There are no maximum funding amounts specified for the Arts Operating Funds; however, funding is competitive. Requests should be realistic and proportionate to the impact of the applicants' activities.

Administration: Arts Unit

Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund (CCCAF)

The fund is aimed at individuals active within the creative and cultural sector at various stages of their career to devote up to a full year developing their practice, with a focus on career growth. The intention is to accelerate and amplify their participation in the sector, increase business skills and industry knowledge, remove financial barriers for individuals, and facilitate a sharing and skills transfer component within the sector.

This fund enables three individuals per year to immerse themselves in career growth and development, increase their potential for income generation, and take the steps needed to achieve their career goals.

Eligibility: Individuals active in the creative and cultural industries who are 18 years or older and have lived in the Yukon for at least three years. Considerations may be made for individuals who have previously lived in the Yukon and can clearly demonstrate strong and ongoing connections to the territory.

Decision Making: A peer committee of individuals representing the creative and cultural industries. The committee is different for every intake.

Intake: One intake per year, 15th of May.

Budget: \$150,000 per year.

Applicant limits: Three individuals will be funded \$50,000 each.

Administration: Arts Unit

Cultural Industries Training Funds (CITF)

Funding is intended to help the Yukon's cultural industries address training needs that allow for economic activity (e.g., employment or business opportunities) or to increase productivity and service in the *for-profit* or *labour force* component of the arts or cultural industries sector. This fund is aimed at the economic aspects of the industry, not the development of artistic skills.

Eligibility: All persons who have resided in the Yukon for a minimum of one year are eligible for support from the CITF. Commercial and not-for-profit organizations may apply.

Decision-making: A peer review committee comprised of cultural industries sector representatives.

Intake: 15th of January, March, May, September.

Budget: \$75,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Preference is given to projects requiring less than \$5,000 for individual training and less than \$8,000 for group training.

Administration: Arts Unit

Culture Quest (CQ)

Culture Quest is a funding program initially developed in 2004 to address art and culture presentation opportunities at large sporting events, such as the Vancouver 2010 Olympics, Canada Winter Games, and Pan American / ParaPan-American Games.

Objectives are to increase arts presentation capacity, particularly in rural and First Nation communities, support the intersection of arts and cultural practices or heritage, and to prepare and develop work to be showcased nationally or internationally. Culture Quest also supports First Nations cultural gatherings and festivals around the Yukon.

Eligibility: Individuals, not-for-profit organizations, companies, and collectives, living or registered in the Yukon, including representatives from First Nations, culturally diverse, arts, heritage, museums, and archives communities.

Not Eligible: Projects that qualify for other Yukon government grant programs (with the exception of micro-grants): e.g., Arts Fund, Touring Artist Fund, Advanced Artists Award, Cultural Industries Training Fund, etc.

Decision-making: Panel (FN rep, Community reps)

Intake: 15th of January, April, September.

Budget: \$120,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Maximum award is \$10,000.

Administration: Administered by Arts Unit since 2023-2024. Previously administered by Klondike Institute of Art and Culture.

Express Micro-grant (EMG)

A flexible fund with simple application and reporting requirements, and quick turnaround times for approvals for short-term, economic and growth opportunities for those in the creative and cultural industries sector.

Eligibility: Emerging, established and professional artists, creatives, or people involved in the creative and cultural industries; artist collectives; non-profit societies registered in the Yukon that are in good standing; businesses; First Nation governments; and municipal governments that present activities centered around artists.

More specifically, this new program is aimed at those who have never received funding before, especially those who may find the funding world intimidating. This program prioritizes first-time applicants, and those from equity-deserving communities. This program provides quick responses to allow creatives to take advantage of opportunities.

Decision Making: Internal review by the Arts Section, based on eligibility criteria. Applicants will be notified of the results in writing within 5 working days for Tier 1 and 10 working days for Tier 2.

Intake: Ongoing with a minimum of \$12,500 available each month for distribution.

Budget: \$75,000 available for each fiscal year.

Applicant limits: Tier 1: Up to \$1,500; Tier 2: \$1,501 to \$5,000. Funding can cover 100% of eligible expenses.

Administration: Arts Unit

Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant (IACCMG)

A program to support Indigenous artists, arts workers, and cultural carriers who are looking for small amounts of funding for creation, performance, development, and export activities. Made possible through a partnership with Canada Council for the Arts until March 31, 2026.

It is similar to the Express Micro-grant, with two tiers of funding available. It is designed as a flexible fund, with simple application and reporting requirements, and quick turnaround times for approvals.

Eligibility: Emerging and established Indigenous Yukon artists, arts workers and cultural carriers who are either (1) from a Yukon First Nation and live in the Yukon; (2) have lived in Yukon for one continuous year at the time of application; or (3) from a Yukon First Nation who have previously lived in the Yukon, are Canadian residents, and maintain ties to the territory. Collectives can apply, provided all members of the group meet the eligibility criteria.

Decision Making: Internal review by the Arts Unit, based on eligibility criteria. Applicants will be notified of the results in writing within 5 working days for Tier 1 and 10 working days for Tier 2.

Intake: Ongoing with a minimum of \$12,500 available each month for distribution.

Budget: This program is funded through an MoU with the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA), which has been extended to March 31, 2026, as well as a PMOU with Lotteries Yukon. \$150,000 in funding support is available for the fiscal year 2025-26.

Applicant limits: Tier 1: Up to \$1,500; Tier 2: \$1,501 to \$5,000. Funding can cover 100% of eligible expenses.

Administration: Arts Unit

New Canadians Event Fund (NCEF)

Provides funding for Yukon events and festivals that celebrate communities of new Canadians and their cultures, and that demonstrate community involvement.

Eligibility: Registered non-profit societies based in the Yukon, who have a primarily cultural or multicultural mandate, or are otherwise significantly engaged in cultural or multicultural activities. Applicants must have an interest in assisting new Canadians with their transition to living in the Yukon.

Decision-making: Internal review by the Arts Unit, based on eligibility criteria.

Intake: There are no deadlines for the fund. Applications are accepted throughout the year.

Budget: \$45,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximum per project): Applicants may request up to 100% of eligible project costs, to a maximum of \$10,000 per Yukon Government fiscal year. Applicants may apply for more funding than one project per year, though previously-funded applicants may not receive additional funding until they have fully accounted for their previous funding.

Administration: Arts Unit

Touring Artist Fund (TAF)

Supports professional artistic tours by individuals or ensembles beyond and within the Yukon (with priority on tours outside the territory). Applicants must be invited to perform or exhibit their work through a professional selection process, which means the work is selected by jury or curated based upon its merit.

Eligibility: Yukon artists (must have lived in the Yukon for one continuous year prior to fund deadline), ensembles, or companies who create, produce or interpret art in theatre, dance, music, visual arts, film, storytelling, or a combination of art forms.

Decision-making: The Yukon Arts Advisory Council reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Minister.

Intake: Four application deadlines per year - the 15th of March, June, September and December.

Budget: \$100,000 available each year.

Applicant limits: The percentage of total project costs eligible for funding is not fixed, as the scale, range and potential impact of touring opportunities can vary significantly. Applicants may apply for up to a maximum of \$10,000 per tour.

Administration: Arts Unit

Historic Properties Assistance Program (HPA)

Funding to assist in the preservation of the many privately-owned historic properties in the Yukon. This funding program makes technical and financial assistance available to those individuals, community groups, societies, municipal and First Nations governments, and businesses who wish to undertake preservation, restoration, development and/or interpretation of their historic properties.

Eligibility: Sites that have historic significance and the project is in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

The applicant must be one of the following:

1. The owner; or
2. The long-term lessee. Written permission of the owner to undertake the proposed work is required; or
3. The group or individual generally recognized to have responsibility for, and control of, the site.

Decision-making: Historic Sites Unit staff.

Intake: One application deadline per year – March 1 at 5:00pm Mountain Standard Time.

Budget: \$100,000 available each year.

Applicant limits: \$10,000 for most properties; \$20,000 for properties that are designated as national, territorial, or municipal historic sites. The program provides funding on a matching basis. Applicants may request up to a maximum of 50% of eligible project costs per year, per project. Complete applications will be reviewed first and be given funding priority.

Administration: Historic Sites Unit

Yukon Historic Resources Fund (YHRF)

Funding for projects that promote the study and interpretation of Yukon's historic resources and further the promotion, appreciation, preservation, and development of Yukon's heritage. The types of projects considered include archaeology, palaeontology, community museums, First Nations heritage or cultural centres, historic sites, First Nations language preservation, toponymy, and historical research.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants include private citizens, groups (including societies, businesses, etc.), First Nations, and municipalities. Priority will be given to Yukon applicants over those applying from outside the territory.

Decision-making: The Yukon Heritage Resources Board reviews applications and provides funding recommendations to the Minister of Tourism and Culture.

Process:

The Historic Sites Unit assists applicants with their funding applications and forwards acceptable applications to the Yukon Heritage Resources Board. The Yukon Heritage Resources Board reviews the applications and provides funding recommendations to the Minister for consideration. The Minister's Office then forwards the Minister's funding decisions to the Historic Sites Unit, who then distribute funds to the recipients.

Intake: One application deadline per year – March 15th at 5:00pm Mountain Standard Time

Budget: \$16,000 available each year

Applicant limits: Will provide matching funding up to 50% of project costs to a maximum of \$10,000. While the total project value may exceed \$20,000, applications requesting more than \$10,000 will not be considered.

Administration: Historic Sites Unit

Museum Contribution Program (MCP)

Provides operational and maintenance support to eligible museums and First Nation cultural centres.

Eligibility: The following are eligible to apply for funding and receive support services:

1. Yukon First Nation governments or organizations with a mandate to preserve and support Indigenous culture and heritage.
2. Incorporated not-for-profit Yukon museums.
3. Municipal museums.
 - a) Incorporated not-for-profit Yukon museums and municipal museums must:
 - b) Be in good standing as a not-for-profit organization under the Societies Act
 - c) (if applicable).
 - d) Provide services to the public year-round.
 - e) Employ the equivalent of one full-time or part-time paid staff.
 - f) Have a current three to five-year strategic plan or business plan.
 - g) Have policies for key museum functions including collections management (for collecting museums) and exhibitions and programming.

Decision-making: Heritage Unit Application Review Panel assesses applications and makes recommendations on reporting requirements (funding levels established in budget process).

Intake: February 2026 (every three years).

Budget: \$2,309,000 available each year

Applicant limits: N/A – operational, not project. Funding levels established in the budget process.

Administration: Heritage Unit

Special Projects Program (SPP)

Provides eligible Yukon First Nation cultural centres and museums with project funding for Exhibits, (Specialized) Capital Acquisitions/Improvements, Collections Improvements, Community and Visitor Experiences.

Eligibility: The following are eligible to apply for funding and receive support services:

1. Yukon First Nation governments or organizations with a mandate to preserve and support Indigenous culture and heritage.
2. Incorporated not-for-profit Yukon museums.
3. Municipal museums.

Incorporated not-for-profit Yukon museums and municipal museums must:

- a. Be in good standing as a not-for-profit organization under the Societies Act (if applicable).
- b. Provide services to the public year-round.
- c. Employ the equivalent of one full-time or part-time paid staff.
- d. Have a current three to five-year strategic plan or business plan.
- e. Have policies for key museum functions including collections management (for collecting museums) and exhibitions and programming.

Decision-making: An Application Review Panel assesses applications and makes recommendations to the Minister of Tourism and Culture on funding amounts.

Intake: March

Budget: \$200,000 available each year

Applicant limits: \$20,000 per project.

Administration: Heritage Unit

Community Tourism Destination Development Fund (CTDD)

Provides support for community projects across the Yukon that focus on sustainable destination development and improve tourism related services and infrastructure including accommodations, attractions, activities and amenities.

Special consideration will be given to umbrella projects where local organizations and businesses are working together to enhance or create tourism opportunities in their community.

The objectives of CTDD are to:

- Strengthen tourism capacity in communities across the Yukon as the tourism sector continues to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Grow tourism business revenues;
- Build capacity in the Yukon to provide outstanding visitor experiences; and
- Build and bolster healthy communities.

Eligibility: Yukon businesses, Yukon First Nations governments, Yukon First Nation Development entities, Yukon municipal governments and community societies or associations that are registered under the Yukon Societies Act and are either based in or serve Yukon communities.

Decision-making: Internal review with assessment committee.

Intake:

- Tier 1: January 15 - projects with total budgets up to \$100,000
- Tier 2: November 15 – projects with total budgets between \$100,001 and \$500,000

Budget: \$1,600,000 available each year until March 31st, 2026.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): The program can cover up to 75 per cent of the total costs of non-capital projects and up to 50 per cent of eligible capital projects to a maximum of \$75,000 for Tier 1 and \$375,000 for Tier 2.

Administration: Destination Development Unit

Spark Tourism Microgrant

The Spark Tourism Microgrant program aims to support the development of new and emerging entrepreneurs offering visitor experiences and services within the Yukon's tourism sector. The program will act as a catalyst to encourage the development and implementation of innovative visitor experiences and services that have the potential to spark larger future projects and experiences. The program focuses on fostering long-term sustainability, as defined by the United Nations World Tourism Organization¹ (UNWTO) and prioritizes new or emerging entrepreneurs.

Eligibility: Yukon-based individuals, businesses, First Nations governments, First Nation Development entities, and not-for-profit organizations.

Decision-making: Internal review

Intake:

- June 15, October 15, and February 15.

Budget: \$100,000 available each year.

Applicant limits (maximums per project): Successful applicants can be awarded between \$1,000 to \$5,000. Funding can cover up to 100% of eligible expenses.

Administration: Destination Development Unit

Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund (TCMF)

Funding for tourism businesses, Yukon municipalities, non-government organizations and First Nations governments offering tourism experiences and services to assist in the promotion and marketing of Yukon tourism experiences and services to residents and visitors alike. The program provides funding assistance for advertising projects, marketing projects, and travel-based activities.

Eligibility: Funding is available for market or trade-ready tourism businesses, municipalities, destination marketing organizations, and First Nations governments featuring tourism experiences and services.

Decision-making: Internal review with assessment committee.

Intake: February 1 and October 1.

Budget: \$700,000 annually.

Applicant limit: For 2024-25, 50% of eligible expenses will be covered by TCMF and 50% will be covered by the applicant for traditional and online expenses. There are maximum funding thresholds depending on applicant's category. There are flat funding rates for travel-related activities.

Administration: Destination Development Unit

Funding program	Annual amount \$
Cultural Services	
Advanced Artist Award	150,000
Arts Fund	500,000
Arts Operating Funds	1,183,000
Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund	150,000
Cultural Industries Training Fund	75,000
Culture Quest	120,000
Express Micro-grant	75,000
Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant	150,000
New Canadians Event Fund	45,000
Touring Artist Fund	100,000
Historic Properties Assistance Program	100,000
Yukon Historic Resources Fund	16,000
Museum Contribution Program	2,309,000
Special Projects Program	200,000
Sub-total	5,173,000
Tourism	
Community Tourism Destination Development Fund	1,600,000
Spark Tourism Micro-grant	\$100,000
Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund	700,000
Sub-total	2,400,000
Total amount	\$7,573,000

Department of Tourism and Culture
Stakeholder Annual Funding for 2025-26 Spring Session

NOTE: These figures are base funding only and do not include any additional specific project amounts

Tourism:	Amount
Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association	\$300,000
Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon	\$264,000
Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon	\$240,000
Yukon Convention Bureau	\$200,000
Yukon Quest	\$150,000
Sport Yukon	\$115,000
Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous	\$117,000
Air North	\$75,000
Association Franco Yukonnaise	\$25,000

Cultural Services:	
Council of Yukon First Nations (Heritage Working Group)	\$137,000
Yukon Historical and Museums Association	\$74,000

Historic Sites:	
Selkirk First Nation (Fort Selkirk)	\$147,000
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (Rampart House)	\$120,000
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (Forty Mile)	\$95,000
Carcross Tagish First Nation (Conrad)	\$20,000
Yukon Conservation Society (Canyon City)	\$18,000

Heritage:	
The Yukon Science Institute	\$20,000
Museums Operating Funding	\$1,211,206
First Nations Cultural Centres Operating Funding	\$1,098,000

Archives:	
Yukon Council of Archives	\$75,000
Friends of the Yukon Archives Society	\$4,000

Arts:	
Yukon Arts Centre	\$892,000
Dawson City Arts Society	\$425,000
Northern Cultural Expressions Society	\$345,000
Friends of Yukon Permanent Art Collection Society (acquisitions)	\$60,000
Yukon Arts Centre (Old Fire Hall/Wharf)	\$175,000
Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association	\$160,000
Yukon Art Society (Artist in the School Program)	\$100,000
Arts Operating Fund*	\$1,183,075

*Recipients for AOF to be confirmed by April 30, 2025 (Application deadline Feb 15th)

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Yukon Visitation and Revenues

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

Overall, 2024 indicators of tourism visitors showed increases over 2023.

Here are some key tourism highlights for 2024.

- 507,000 estimated visitors to Yukon from January to Dec 2024.
 - Over 9% than the same period in 2023.
- 497,000 international border crossings from January to December.
 - 5% increase compared to the same period in 2023.
- 0.3% higher average hotel occupancy rate (January to December 2024) than during the same period in 2023.

Additional response:

The tourism sector in the Yukon serves as a vital economic driver, contributing significantly to job creation, revenue generation, and overall economic growth.

Here are some key financial highlights from January to December 2024:

- A total of \$400.1 million was spent in the Yukon.
 - 24.7% higher compared to the same period in 2023.
- Of this total, \$212.7 million was spent by international visitors (26.5% higher than in 2023) and \$187.4 million by domestic visitors (22.8% higher than in 2023).
- Compared to 2019, this represents a 45% increase in total spending.
- Of the \$400.1 million spent in the Yukon, 43.8% was on food and beverages, 27.2% on accommodations, 14.2% on retail, 10.1% on transportation and 4.7% on recreation and entertainment.

Context—this may be an issue because:

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Visitation and Revenues

TAB # 12
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

People may be curious about the 2024 tourism season.

Background:

- Tourism branch has launched a new online dashboard that improves access to reports and data.
- Quarterly reports are published to offer users historical insights into tourism performance indicators.
- Quarterly reports are available on Yukon.ca under the dedicated section for tourism statistics and reports.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

March 4, 2025
[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Community Tourism
Development**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The department is providing funds to several businesses, organizations, and individuals across Yukon communities to facilitate sustainable and innovative destination development.
- As of November 2024, the Community Tourism Destination Development (CTDD) Fund has supported 43 projects. Approximately ninety percent of the projects are in communities or regions outside of Whitehorse and range from building new tourism infrastructure to developing new tourism experiences. 10 Yukon First Nation-owned/led and 17 LGBTQ2S+ and female-owned/led projects are represented.
- For the 2025/26 fiscal year, CTDD received 31 applications in Tier 1 from 12 communities or regions outside of Whitehorse, with projects totalling an ask of over \$1,300,000.
- Tier 2 received 22 applications from 13 communities or regions outside of Whitehorse, with projects totalling an ask of over \$4,700,000.
- Between the two Tiers, 7 applications are Yukon First Nation-owned or led, and 11 are LGBTQ2S+ and/or female-owned or led.
- The Spark Tourism Micro-grant (intakes in February, June, and October) is currently supporting new and emerging entrepreneurs in the tourism sector by funding 23 projects in 7 different communities across the Yukon. In the program's pilot year, Spark supported 19 different projects in 8 different communities.

Additional response:

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Community Tourism
Development**Tourism and Culture

- Businesses and organizations can apply for CTDD under Tier 1 for projects with total budgets up to \$100,000 and under Tier 2 for projects with total budgets between \$100,001 and \$500,000.
- Businesses, organizations and individuals can apply for Spark with funding requests between \$1,000 and \$5,000.
- The department conducts multiple visits each year to communities across the Yukon, facilitating discussions with municipalities, businesses, and locals on tourism-related community development.
- The department also hosts multiple Tourism Cafes each year, bringing together tourism stakeholders in their common region to discuss community tourism development.
- In 2025, the Rugged Apprentice program will be offered again, where volunteers from across Canada contribute to community infrastructure projects in Yukon communities.
- In September 2023, 48 Rugged Apprentices volunteers travelled to Carmacks, Dawson, Mayo, Tagish, or Teslin where they helped upgrade local infrastructure and property as identified by each community.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- CTDD and the Spark Tourism Microgrant are newer funds and there may be interest in recipients and projects.
-

Background:

- The development of outstanding visitor experiences, alongside leveraging and expanding existing seasonal and community capacity, was identified as a pillar of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy.
 - The department created the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund in November 2022. The fund has budget approval until March 31, 2026.
-

Session Briefing Note**Community Tourism
Development**

Tourism and Culture

- The Spark Tourism Microgrant was announced in February 2024 and now provides \$100,000 annually, available through three intakes.
- Support for destination development offered through CTDD and Spark is helping communities realize opportunities from increased tourism visitation and rebuild capacity lost during the pandemic, as well as encouraging new and emerging tourism businesses across the Yukon.
- The list of CTDD recipients is available on Yukon.ca at <https://yukon.ca/en/community-tourism-destination-development-fund-recipients-2024-26>

Approved:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

March 4, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Yukon Destination Promotion

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- One of the goals of the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS) is to market the Yukon as a year-round destination.
- Tourism Yukon actively promotes the Yukon as a travel destination in 13 countries around the world: Canada, USA, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Australia, UK, Japan, Mexico, France, Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.
- The Yukon was recently recognized by two influential travel and lifestyle publications: Travel + Leisure named the Yukon on its list of 50 *Best Places to Go in 2025* and Forbes included the Yukon on its list of *Where to Go in 2025: 15 Ideas for Unforgettable, Responsible Travel*.

Additional response:

- Yukon Tourism has implemented several successful campaigns and initiatives in Canada and around the world that have been recognized by awards, for example, the Clio award win for the recent Yukon is a *Little Bit Metal* campaign.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

Yukoners, Yukon tourism businesses, and sector stakeholders are interested in the Yukon's destination promotion investments and programming.

Background:

- Tourism Yukon invests in:
 - strategic consumer marketing campaigns to increase the awareness of the Yukon as a travel destination.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Yukon Destination Promotion**Tourism and Culture

- Amplifying these campaigns through strategic media relations, content creation to produce compelling and inspirational Yukon travel stories.
- Investing in the travel trade channel to ensure that Yukon tourism products are widely available for sale by international travel catalogues.
- Tourism Yukon engages a marketing agency of record and a media relations agency in Canada, and general sales agents in German-speaking Europe, the UK, Japan and Australia.
- In 2024-25, Tourism Yukon promotes Yukon tourism businesses through a wide variety of global promotional initiatives, including:
 - business development missions to Canada, Mexico, UK, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Australia;
 - attending Rendez-vous Canada 2024 with Yukon tourism businesses on 1-on-1 buying sessions;
 - in-Yukon business development missions for key account tour operators from the UK, Germany, Netherlands, Canada, USA, Mexico and Japan;
 - awareness generation missions for key travel / lifestyle publications and content producers from USA, Mexico, Canada, France, and Australia;
 - supporting the Yukon First Nations and the Yukon Arts Centre in-market events for travel and lifestyle media like the Honouring our Futures Graduation Regalia Exhibition at Canada House in London;

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Yukon Destination Promotion

Tourism and Culture

- developing content for digital marketing initiatives including influencer partnerships with influential content creators;
- content collaborations with Yukon businesses including North of Ordinary podcasts, Yukon Rendezvous, Eclipse Nordic Hotsprings and Sport Yukon;
- consumer marketing campaigns in North America, including the Summer is Not Over Campaign in support of Dawson City businesses during the July wildfires, and the Life Changing Lights Campaign (USA) promoting Northern Lights viewing in northern Canada in partnership with Destination Canada, Tourism NWT and Travel Manitoba.
- The innovative "Yukon: It's a Little Bit Metal" campaign, showcased the Yukon's rugged winter experiences in an inviting manner. The campaign has generated over 1.4 million views to date. It highlights strong collaboration, local talent, and a commitment to diversity.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Recommended response:

- The Visitor Services Unit plays a critical role in welcoming visitors and improving their Yukon experience while encouraging visitors to spend more time and travel more widely in the Yukon.
- The six Visitor Information Centres (VICs), mostly located on highways throughout the Yukon, are open from May 1 to September 30. The VICs saw 228,000 visitors during this period in 2024. The Whitehorse VIC is open year-round.
- During October 2024, the six VICs stayed open to pilot an expanded fall tourism program and saw an additional 4,950 visitors.

Additional response:

- The Visitor Services Unit has adapted to use digital tourism kiosks and online services to meet customers where they are.
- 16 digital kiosks have been installed around the Yukon and in Alaska, with more coming in 2025. The kiosks have been used 63,000 times since 2023. Kiosks feature safe travel information, community events, weather, road reports and emergency updates.
- Visitor Services has adopted QR codes for information delivery and to reduce printing and shipping costs. This is part of a planned 2-year transition to make more use of digital tools. QR codes have been scanned 800 times since 2022.
- In 2024, VIC staff hosted 32 online video appointments to answer visitors' pre-trip questions.
- For those who went to VICs in 2024, their experience was improved with new exhibits, increased community programming and signage changes.

- At four VICs – Beaver Creek, Carcross, Haines Junction and Whitehorse – Visitor Services hired locals to host regularly scheduled Indigenous tourism exhibits and tours from May to September. Over 400 visitors attended these events.
- A new advertising campaign, *Have a Better Day* encourages people to engage with Visitor Services online, in-person and via phone <https://www.travelyukon.com/better-day>

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Visitor Services Unit plays a critical role in welcoming visitors and improving their Yukon experience and is optimizing its programs to use more digital tools.

Background:

- From May to September 2024, VIC visitation (228,000) was 5% higher than during the same period in 2023 (218,000) but still 42% lower than in 2018 (393,000).
- In October 2024, the six VICs stayed open to pilot an expanded fall tourism program and saw an extra 4,950 visitors.
- VIC staff are hired in each community to provide visitors with information on travel products and experiences available locally and emergency safety updates.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Indigenous Tourism

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Celebrating our Cultures is one of the core values that supports the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy Action 3.2: *Establish the Yukon as a premier destination for Indigenous tourism experiences.*
- Indigenous tourism experiences are an identified gap in the Yukon's visitor experiences and are a key area of potential growth.
- The department has an MOU with Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association (YFNCT) to collaborate in the development and promotion of Indigenous tourism experiences.
- The department is supporting Indigenous Tourism development through several funds like the Community Tourism Destination Development (CTDD) Fund and the Spark Tourism Microgrant (Spark).
 - The Department has funded 10 Indigenous-owned or led tourism projects through the Community Tourism Destination Development Fund since the program's inception in 2023.
 - The Department has funded 14 Indigenous-owned or led tourism projects through Spark, including the "pilot" program in 2023.

Additional response:

- Destination Canada has selected a Yukon project for the first phase of its inaugural Tourism Corridor Strategy Program. This pilot project aims to promote destination development through collaboration amongst varying stakeholders and across provincial and territorial boundaries.
 - Destination Canada's Yukon project envisions building a network of community-led Indigenous lodges throughout the

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Indigenous Tourism

Tourism and Culture

Yukon, Western Northwest Territories, and Northern British Columbia.

- The Yukon project is one of only three projects selected across Canada. Each project will undergo a feasibility study fully funded by Destination Canada.
- The feasibility study for the Corridor Strategy Program will provide interested First Nations with key information that can help determine what kind of opportunities may exist in their communities.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the progress of Indigenous tourism experience development in the Yukon.

Background:

- Destination Canada received 15 submissions from around the country. The other two successful submissions include:
 1. **Atlantic Canada UNESCO Tourism Corridor:** Aims to bring together the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Fundy Biosphere Region, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador and Parks Canada to convene diverse stakeholders, foster innovation, and identify a common vision for the future where humans and the environment connect and thrive.
 2. **Sustainable Journey from Prairies to Pacific:** Leverages Highway 3, which is a key interprovincial corridor linking the large urban hubs of Southern Alberta and British Columbia's lower mainland. It offers a collection of cities, resort towns, national and provincial parks, small rural communities, Indigenous tourism experiences, outdoor recreation experiences, agritourism, sections of the Trans Canada Trail, wildlife viewing, culture and western heritage.
- Prior to submitting the First Nation Lodge Network proposal, all Yukon First Nations were contacted. While there are varying degrees of readiness within Yukon First Nations to develop their own lodge, no Yukon First Nations were opposed to the concept being studied.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Indigenous Tourism

Tourism and Culture

- To broaden the project across provincial and territorial boundaries, the Department of Tourism and Culture reached out to established partners in BC and the NWT. If successful, a network of small-scale, authentic indigenous lodges across northern BC, Yukon and western NWT could be an important tourist attraction and will generate jobs and economic development in rural communities in these regions.
- **CTDD:** In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, four out of 19 CTDD funded projects were Indigenous-owned businesses and/or organizations totaling \$529,500 in CTDD funding. The recipients are Fox Bay Retreat, Carcross Tagish Limited Partnership, Kluane Energy and Dennis Shorty Fine Art.
- **CTDD:** In the 2024-2025 intake, five out of 23 CTDD funded projects were Indigenous-owned businesses and/or organizations totaling \$331,270 in CTDD funding. The recipients are Selkirk Development Corporation, Bannock Slap, Hart 2 Hart Developments Ltd, Northern Nomad Outdoors, and Josie's Old Crow Adventures.
- **Spark:** In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, 8 Indigenous tourism entrepreneurs received assistance through microgrant funding. The recipients were Dàkeyi Dánán Tours, Indigenous Tourism Walks + Talk, Champagne Pack Trains, Yukon Roots, Kluane Outdoor Inspirations, Bannock Barn, Trapline 2U and PERXX.
 - One indigenous led organization, Carcross Tagish Limited Partnership received assistance through the Microgrant funding in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
- **Spark:** In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, two Indigenous tourism entrepreneurs received assistance through microgrant funding. The recipients are Yukon Roots and Chilkat Trails.
- Tourism and Culture also supports Indigenous tourism development by providing funding to Development Corporations to implement tourism-related workshops, training, and funding to their community.

Session Briefing Note

Indigenous Tourism

TAB #16
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

- Tourism and Culture also supports Indigenous tourism and the Walk with Us Respectful Travel Guidelines through its destination promotion investments in Canada and 13 countries globally.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Emergencies and Tourism

Spring 2025Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Emergencies such as flooding, wildfires or road closures are unexpected and yet increasingly occur most summers.
- The Tourism branch supports tourism stakeholders and visitors in the territory when these events happen.
- Tourism and Culture works with Emergency Services in Community Services to provide the best information for travellers.

Digital tourism kiosks

- Kiosks have instructions for how to get emergency updates from Yukon government sources. In 2024, over 300 people viewed these instructions, with 50 QR code scans of the options.
- Kiosks feature an interactive 511 Yukon map with information about road closures and weather alerts. This year, over 1,100 people used the map, with 80 QR code scans to download the 511 app.
- Kiosks can be found in 12 locations throughout the Yukon and Alaska.

At Visitor Information Centres

- Staff at VICs direct visitors towards <https://511yukon.ca/> and <https://yukon.ca/emergencies> for the most up-to-date info, and help answer specific questions.
- Our 6 VICs are used as key community locations for visitors to get information about emergencies and what to do.

Emergency Preparedness - Print booklet

- Visitor Services, in collaboration with Community Services, has created a print booklet with information about how to travel safely in

Session Briefing Note

Emergencies and Tourism

Spring 2025

Tourism and Culture

the Yukon. The booklet will be available on kiosks and from the VICs in May 2025.

- The booklet has been a collaborative project with Community Services (Wildland Fire and Emergency Measures Organization).

Destination Development

- Destination Development is working with Our Clean Future to determine strategies for ensuring the safety and well-being of tourism businesses and visitors. The Tourism sector is considered a priority in Our Clean Future's *Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment*.
- Emergency updates and resources for preparedness are shared in Destination Development's Industry Advisory Newsletter.
- An Emergency Preparedness checklist for tourism businesses is being developed as part of the Tourism Resource Guide.
- A workshop was held in Whitehorse in January 2025 to share resources and information about climate change and emergency preparedness specifically for the tourism sector.

Context—this may be an issue because:

The tourism sector is interested in how TC supports visitors in emergency situations.

Background:

- The summer of 2023 had evacuations due to wildfires (Mayo and Old Crow). The previous summers, 2022 and 2021, were impacted by flooding (Dawson, Carmacks, Southern Lakes region).
- In 2024, the sector has been impacted by landslides (Southern Lakes region), wildfires (Mayo, Stewart Crossing) and threats to water and land from mining activity (Mayo region).

Session Briefing Note
Emergencies and Tourism

TAB # 17
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

- It is expected that, due to climate change, these events will continue to occur.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

April 23, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is making significant investments to the Yukon's infrastructure to provide Yukoners with safe and reliable aviation infrastructure for years to come.
- The work at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport includes reconstructing the main runway, replacing the maintenance facility, upgrading the parallel runway, upgrading taxiways and improving the runway lighting, all essential for enhancing the airport's capacity and safety.
- This work is part of a broader \$263 million program to improve Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.
- While this is a major project, we are committed to minimizing disruptions for the travelling public and will continue to work closely with all aviation stakeholders to ensure smooth operations during the construction period.
- During the construction seasons, the main runway will be closed to all traffic from April to October to allow work to take place. The parallel runway will be used while construction is taking place.

Additional response: Project Budget and Schedule

- The original \$160.7 million contract to reconstruct the main runway was awarded to Flatiron Constructors Canada Limited.
- The contract is now valued at \$165.7 million due to a \$5 million change order issued on February 17, 2025, to account for pricing received for the south approach lighting system that was only a provisional estimate at the end of tender.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works

-
- As with many construction projects, particularly those of this size, change orders are often necessary. They allow for adjustments to the contract and mitigate the evolving circumstances that are a reality of construction.
 - The federal government is contributing \$186 million through the National Trade Corridors Fund with the Yukon government funding the remaining \$77 million.
 - The estimated budget for 2025-26 is \$75.5 million.
 - In 2025-26, 67 per cent of the project costs will be recoverable through the National Trade Corridor Fund. Overall, the entire suite of projects, including the parallel runway, will be 72 per cent funded through Canada.
 - Construction began during the 2023 season and is on schedule to be completed in fall 2025.
 - To date, half of the main runway has been rebuilt and construction on the southern half of the runway re-started again during the week of March 17.

Additional response: Canadian Contracting

- Yukon's contract for the runway reconstruction work is with Flatiron Constructors Canada, a Canadian company with offices in Calgary and Vancouver.
- All of the work is being done by Canadian companies with approximately 70 per cent of the total contract value being performed by local contractors, and the remaining 30 per cent are non-Yukon, but still Canadian companies.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works

Additional response: 2025 Construction Activities

- Work for the 2025 construction season commenced the week of March 17.
- Planned construction activities this season include:
 - Reconstruction of the south half of the runway surface which includes rubblization of the existing asphalt and concrete surface, placing new base material and asphalt pavement;
 - installation of new edge lighting;
 - Construction of drainage ditches to connect to the new storm drain system;
 - Extension of taxiway E;
 - Relocating the NavCanada Glide Path antenna; and
 - The installation of approach lighting towers to the South.

Additional response: Approach Lighting Towers

- Airports with instrument landing systems are required to have an approach lighting system installed. Currently the approach lights in Whitehorse are inset into asphalt within the portion of the runway under construction.
- The approach lighting system extends 720 metres beyond the threshold of the runway.
- With the removal of the displacement on the south end, the approach lighting system needs to move further south to line up with the new runway threshold.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works

-
- Normally approach lights are installed at ground level or on short towers because they need to be within a specified elevation of the runway centreline.
 - Due to the Whitehorse airport's unique location, on top of the clay cliffs, the lighting needs to be installed on larger towers to meet the elevation requirements.
 - When completed, the south approach light towers will be the tallest in Canada.
 - Highways and Public Works is in the process of finalizing a re-zoning application with the City of Whitehorse for a portion of the land required for the south approach lights.
 - The department has been working with our partners at the City of Whitehorse to stay informed of the application as it moves from the public consultation phase to the second and third reading prior to finalization.

Additional response: Removal of Displacements

- The displacements are the portion of the runway that cannot be used for landing due to obstacles, pavement conditions, or other restrictions.
- During the summer of 2024 the north displacement on the runway was removed as part of the construction work. This summer, the south displacement will also be removed.
- We are removing the displacements on the runway to increase the amount of runway surface available to pilots for takeoff and landings. This does not change the overall footprint of the paved portion of the runway.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works

-
- The removal also requires changes to runway paint markings, runway lighting and the instrument landing system; all of which will be addressed as part of the reconstruction work.

Additional response: Extending Taxiways

- The project includes extension to Taxiway E on the south and the relocation of Taxiway F on the north.
- This work will minimize delays and also increase pavement lifespan by reducing the amount of times heavy aircraft turn around on the surface.
- Previously there was no taxiway access to the end of the runway and planes needed to taxi on the runway surface and turn around at the end.
- This could cause delays if an aircraft was taxiing while another was scheduled to land.
- Adding taxiways to the end of the runway allows aircraft to taxi directly to the end without needing to turn or backtrack along the runway itself.

Additional response: AGN V Upgrades

- There are six Aircraft Group Number, AGN classifications, ranging from I to VI, or smallest to largest.
- Airports classified as AGN V in Canada typically support significant metropolitan area populations and have passenger volumes in the millions. Examples of AGN V aircraft are Boeing 777 or Airbus A330.
- While additional investments are required to support moving from a category 4 airport, AGN IV, to a category 5, AGN V, airport, the length

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2025

Main Runway Replacement Project

Highways and
Public Works

and width of the existing and new main runway does not limit the Whitehorse Airport from supporting larger aircraft.

- As part of the runway reconstruction work Taxiway F and portions of Taxiway E have been upgraded to accommodate AGN V aircraft
- There are relatively few airports in Canada classified as AGN V, and those airports support significant metro area populations and have passenger volumes in the millions.

Additional response: YESAB Assessment

- During the initial planning phase Highways and Public Works reviewed the project scope and determined that the planned activities did not require a water licence or a YESAB assessment as it is considered “repair and maintenance of an aerodrome.”
- However, during preparatory construction work in the Baxter’s Gulch area, an underground stream was encountered near where the existing north approach lighting towers were planned to be replaced.
- Once the stream was found, work in the area was stopped and we immediately enhanced existing erosion and sediment controls to prevent any deposit of silt or waste into the stream during ongoing construction from other areas on the project site.
- A YESAB decision document for the replacement of the approach lighting with the north and south approach has been received.
- Highways and Public Works is now currently awaiting the review of its water license submission for the north approach lights work with Baxter’s Gulch.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works

Additional response: Impacts to Trails

- The Puckett's Gulch area is currently undergoing active construction as we work on developing a new airside access road.
- The active transportation trail from the Alaska Highway to the top of the Black Street Stairs will remain open during construction. There may be times where minor detours will be required this summer depending on construction progress.
- For safety reasons, there will be temporary closures of the footpaths that extend around the airport beyond the Black Street Stairs.
- The footpaths in this area, including those past the Black Street Stairs and along the escarpment around the airport, are part of the City of Whitehorse's jurisdiction.
- Highways and Public Works continue open dialogue with the City of Whitehorse as they develop their active transportation infrastructure near the airport.

Additional response: Drainage work and sediment control

- The Contractor's Environmental Management Plan is in place to mitigate environmental concerns.
- The Environmental Management Plan outlines the Contractor's plans for sediment controls, monitoring requirements, and reporting requirements for all planned work on site.
- Highways and Public Works and their Consultant, regularly review the implementation of this plan and report any issues to the Contractor.
- The drainage work planned for the airport includes replacement of existing drainage systems, some of which date back to the 1950s.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works

-
- The updated drainage system includes subdrains around the perimeter of the main runway.
 - These subdrains work to ensure the gravel below the runway pavement stays dry and frost free. This helps increase the lifespan of the runway surface by reducing the amount of movement experienced during freeze-thaw cycles.
 - Re-grading and seeding of the infields on either side of the runway will reduce the amount of water that remains on the runway surface after rain or melt events.
 - These revised systems are intended to meet current Transport Canada best practices and do not increase the overall drainage footprint of the site.

Additional response: Sustainability and Resilience

- As part of the reconstruction work at Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport, a new Field Electric Centre was constructed.
- The new Field Electric Centre replaces the current one which was originally constructed in 1992.
- The new centre offers upgraded electrical control systems which allow for easier maintenance of the airfield lighting system.
- The new centre also has added space available for additional regulators or for any future expansions that may be required.
- Electrical components on the airfield have been installed in conduit and pull-pits.
- This replaces the old system which had many wires buried directly beneath the ground.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works

-
- The conduit and pull-pits allow for easier repairs if issues arise, and minimize the potential for damage due to freeze thaw cycles.

Additional response: Project Rationale

- As asphalt ages, the ability for the asphalt mix to hold together degrades and the surface loses its flexibility. The lower flexibility results in increased cracking and produces foreign object debris, which can be detrimental to aircraft.
- Since 2017, the department has been regularly patching and rehabilitating the runway to extend the runway's life, but it was no longer economical or practical to continue with this approach.
- There are existing concrete panels under the asphalt surface of the runway which were originally installed in 1943 when the airport was first built.
- These panels are approximately 20 cm thick and lie under 15 cm of asphalt.
- The panels are cracked throughout due to age and the cracks are reflecting through the asphalt layers causing the top layer of asphalt to also break down.
- Large cracks on runways are a major source of foreign object debris (FOD) and pose potential dangers to aircraft.
- These existing layers of concrete will undergo rubblization to be used as base material in the new runway structure.
- Where poor quality materials are found, below the existing concrete, they will be removed and replaced with new aggregates to ensure there is at minimum 1.5 metres of quality materials under the new asphalt surface.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works

-
- Part of the reconstruction work will allow the use of the full paved surface, which will go from being 2,216 metres of usable runway to 2,900 metres of usable runway.
 - In addition, part of the reconstruction also includes raising the elevation of the runway in order to install new drainage infrastructure.
 - This will help minimize the impact of frost below the runway and also help keep subbase soils dry and solid to prevent movement and cracking of the asphalt surface.

Additional response: Impacts to Air Carriers

- The main runway is scheduled to close on April 15, 2025, for the season and is anticipated to reopen mid-October. All aircraft will be using the parallel runway during this time.
- As part of the overall project plan, in 2022 the parallel runway was lengthened and strengthened to allow 737 type aircraft to use the runway.
- Lights were also added to the parallel runway to allow for nighttime operations.
- However, the parallel runway is still shorter than the main runway which means that during the construction seasons, diverted aircraft larger than a 737 will not be able to land.
- We have been and will continue to work with air carriers to plan for and minimize any impacts while we reconstruct the main runway.
- While the airline Condor will not be able to offer direct service to Whitehorse during the 2024 and 2025 construction seasons, Air North has secured interline agreements with both WestJet and

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works

Condor that allow travellers to connect to the Yukon through Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver.

Additional response: Community Development Agreements (Yukon First Nation Participation)

- We have entered into two Community Development Agreements for work on the main runway, one with Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and one with the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.
- Both agreements are tailored to maximize socioeconomic benefits that are important to each community such as employment, subcontracting, training and workforce and business development.
- Additionally, the contractor held a job fair in March 2024, targeting employment for First Nations citizens. Another job fair is expected to be held in spring 2025, prior to construction season start-up.
- The framework for these agreements was developed as part of the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy. We are working closely with both First Nation governments to implement these two agreements.

Additional response: Facts and Quantities

- 75,000 square metres of old concrete runway was rubblized this past summer.
 - This method helps avoid costly and time-consuming process of removing and hauling away the old concrete, while also allowing for construction of a solid foundation for the new surface.
- Approximately 100 runway edge lights and 200 taxiway edge lights will be installed over the two years of the project.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2025****Main Runway Replacement Project**Highways and
Public Works

-
- The new edge lighting has transitioned us to energy efficient, eco-friendly lighting solutions.
 - The modern runway and taxiway edge lights are LED, which consumes less energy, have a longer lifespan, requires less maintenance compared to traditional incandescent bulbs, and the light output is also more uniform for approaching aircraft.
 - By switching to more efficient lighting systems, airports can significantly lower their carbon emissions, making the lighting systems more environmentally friendly.
 - Overall, the shift to newer lighting technologies makes the runway and taxiway edge lights more sustainable and energy efficient.
 - 40 airfield guidance signs will be installed for the project.
 - The increase is important to provide crucial information to pilots and ground personnel to ensure safe navigation while on the ground.
 - Over 300 pull-pits and 60 manholes make up the underground portion of the work. This allows for a highly accessible and maintainable underground system.
 - Drainage and electrical crossings that go under taxiway or runway surfaces are encased in concrete to ensure they withstand the forces exerted on them by large aircraft.
 - Horizontal directional drilling was used to install electrical conduits under the main runway to minimize the chances of the conduit trench reflecting up to the surface and causing cracks or bumps.

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2025

Main Runway Replacement Project

Highways and
Public Works

Context—this may be an issue because:

- This is a major infrastructure project happening in the territory that is of interest to aviation stakeholders and the public.
-

Background:**2024 Construction Activities**

- Work completed during the 2024 season included:
 - reconstruction of the north half of the runway surface which included rubblization of the existing asphalt and concrete surface, placing new base material, and placing new asphalt pavement;
 - installation of new edge lighting;
 - installation of a storm drainage system;
 - construction of a new taxiway F; and,
 - adjustments to the north perimeter service road.
- Our operations and engineering teams inspected the work completed over the summer and approved the runway to reopen for the winter.

Drainage

- The Contractor's Environmental Management Plan is in place to mitigate environmental concerns. The plan outlines the contractor's plans for sediment controls, monitoring requirements, and reporting requirements for all planned work on site.
- Highways and Public Works consultant regularly reviews the implementation of this plan and reports any issues to the contractor.
- The drainage work planned for the airport is the replacement of existing drainage systems, some of which date back to the 1950s.

Engagement

- The department is working closely with aviation stakeholders to minimize impacts on their operations during the construction period.
-

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2025

Main Runway Replacement Project

Highways and
Public Works

- On August 3, and September 28, 2023, information sessions were hosted for aviation and tourism stakeholders, respectively, about the project.
- Both sessions were well attended and provided the opportunity to ask questions about the project.
- There will also be posters at the Whitehorse airport communicating information about the project and upgrades. This information is also found on Yukon.ca.

Fast Facts

- The total quantity of electrical cable required for the project could reach from the airport in Whitehorse to Carcross, and back.
- The total volume of aggregates required for the project could fill 85 Olympic sized swimming pools.
- There are 40 kilometres of paint markings on the main runway alone.
- The project requires 73,000 tonnes of asphalt, that's about the weight of approximately 145,000 moose.

Runway Length Comparison

ENIWA (Parallel runway)	Watson Lake	YVR's (largest)	Canada's largest runway (Calgary)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6600' long • 100' wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5500' long • 150' wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,800' long • 200' wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14000' long • 200' wide

Approved by:

T. Allen

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

April 7, 2025

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Airport Impacts on Tourism

Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport (ENWIA) is undergoing important upgrades from 2023-2026, with the majority of work being completed during the summer of 2024 and 2025. Upgrades include reconstructing the main runway, expanding apron areas, improving lighting, and building a new maintenance facility.
- The project is essential for improving air travel performance and maintaining safe and reliable jet service to/from Whitehorse.
- Tourism and Culture continues to support Air North, Yukon's Airline, in its work developing interline agreements to increase national and international air access to the Yukon.

Context—this may be an issue because: Yukoners are interested in the improvements to the airport.

Background:

- The Yukon and the federal governments are investing up to \$186.2M to upgrade Whitehorse Eric Neilsen International Airport's infrastructure, safety measures, and operational capacity.
- The project supports economic development, mining and tourism sectors in the Yukon, and aims to increase the airport's resilience against climate change.
- Air North has reported robust Yukon sales in 2025 through its interline agreement with Condor.
- Initial reports indicate that more than 4000 segments were sold on Condor's website, and another 1500 plus on other interline agreements. This data specifically highlights the Air North and Condor interline.
- Tourism Yukon is working with numerous key account tour operators in German-speaking who are actively promoting the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Airport Impacts on Tourism

Tourism and Culture

- WestJet and Air North recently signed a new interline agreement that will connect Air North to WestJet's global network and the Yukon with single point check-in and through-checked bags for connecting itineraries.
- This new agreement complements Air North's other interline agreements – including the one with Condor, which contributed to a nearly 20% increase in European ticket sales on to the Yukon via Air North this year.
- By tapping into WestJet's global network, visitors from the American, Asian and European markets will have easy 1 stop access to the Yukon as a travel destination.
- The overall airline seat capacity between Vancouver and Whitehorse is close to 20% over 2019. Air North's capacity with Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary, all three connection airports for Condor will increase an estimated roughly 20% as well, in 2025.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Archives Unit

TAB #20
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Yukon Archives has acquired, preserved, and provided access to the Yukon's written, visual and audio records since 1972.
- Yukon Archives increased its public open hours in 2024, including evening hours on Thursdays as well as offering appointments on Saturdays, to improve access to the public.
- Yukon Archives partners with First Nations citizens, non-profit organizations, and governments on many initiatives, such as: increasing accessibility of the materials; improving accuracy of record descriptions; sharing expertise on preserving and managing archival records.

Additional response:

- The Yukon's many stories and its documentary heritage are a source of pride for Yukoners, and we encourage everyone to connect with Yukon Archives to learn about its fascinating materials and resources.
- Yukon Archives is committed to ensuring the needs of Archives users are met and services are delivered in an equitable, accessible and inclusive manner.
- Yukon Archives has provided secure storage for CYFN archival records since 2002 and provides free office space for CYFN's Archivist. Since 2017, CYFN has undertaken a project to identify, arrange and describe its records.
- Yukon Archives, with the approval of the Heritage Working Group, has waived all fees for individuals that self-identify as Yukon First Nation, Transboundary First Nation with traditional territory in the

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Archives Unit

TAB #20
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

Yukon, or Inuvialuit for digital copier reproductions and digital file reproductions of any materials in Yukon Archives' holdings when requested for personal use (research, non-commercial, or commercial project). Yukon First Nation and Transboundary First Nation governments are also able to request a waiver of fees independently from this policy.

- Yukon Archives provides operational funding and free meeting space to the Yukon Council of Archives. The department provides \$94,000 annually through a 3-year transfer payment agreement to support the Community Archivist Program year-round.
- Yukon Archives provides \$4,000 to the Friends of the Yukon Archives Society (FOYAS) to increase access to Yukon's documentary heritage. FOYAS develops and designs exhibitions that draw on Yukon Archives' collections.
- Mini exhibits are renewed regularly in the Research Room at Yukon Archives. The public is welcome to view them during opening hours.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The archival community in the Yukon is deeply committed to the preservation of the Yukon's documentary heritage.

Background:

- Yukon Archives holds a variety of records, including government and private records and a library of published materials.
- The Archives Act:
 - Designates Yukon Archives as the official repository for records;
 - Grants the authority to acquire, preserve, and provide access to the Yukon's documentary heritage; and

Session Briefing Note

Yukon Archives Unit

TAB #20
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

- Mandates that Yukon Archives authorize final dispositions for all Government of Yukon records.

About the collections

- Holdings at Yukon Archives include letters, diaries, manuscripts, photos, films, videos, sound recordings, maps, architectural drawings, books, and newspapers.
- Yukon Archives has exhibits on display and available for loan.
- Exhibits are available for viewing online, and periodically in the Yukon Archives research room, or at Arts Underground.

Digitization and Digital Preservation

- Yukon Archives is working on the digitization of video and sound recordings to address media format obsolescence, as well as building a program to preserve born-digital materials.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025
[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Arts and Heritage Collections**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Department of Tourism and Culture has a responsibility to provide proper care for heritage and art collections that we hold in public trust.
- Many items in our collections are irreplaceable and globally significant. Several items are held on behalf of Yukon First Nations, and a large portion of the collections is managed collaboratively with Yukon First Nations.
- The 2023 Minister of Tourism and Culture's mandate letter stated: "Continue to advance the establishment of a heritage resource centre for the conservation and protection of Yukon's archaeological, paleontological, and cultural artifacts."
- The department has explored several options for a heritage collections facility and continues to do so. Any eventual solution will integrate and honour the heritage co-management relationship between YG and First Nations.

Additional response:

- Work is continuing with departmental staff and the department of Highways and Public Works to implement short term improvements to mitigate risks to collections.
- Access to the collections occurs through art displays in over 30 public locations, objects and artifacts at the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre, and through open houses and appointments.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Some members of the public may be interested in the project status.
-

Session Briefing Note

Arts and Heritage Collections

TAB # 21
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

Background:

- Government of Yukon is the co-steward of approximately 75,000 archaeological artifacts and approximately 50,000 palaeontological specimens, and an impressive and extensive art collection of over 500 pieces on behalf of Yukoners.
- All of these collections are growing. A functional building program was last completed in 2021 and was based on a 20-year growth forecast.
- The Beringia ice-age fossil record in the Yukon is globally significant, yielding important scientific information about extinct ice-age fauna and the impacts of climate change.
- The archaeological record in the Yukon is world-renowned for its studies in ice-patch archaeology and the history of early humankind on the continent.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Arts Unit

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Arts Unit's mandate is to foster the development and enhancement of the arts in the Yukon. Over \$4.4 million is invested each year to support Yukon artists and creatives, with over \$2.2 million available in applicant-driven funding.
- The department delivers ten funding programs for creatives and arts organizations. In 2024-25 (as of March 1, 2025), these programs supported 247 individuals, organizations, projects and activities with funding.
- Four key community arts organizations are directly funded: Yukon Arts Centre, Dawson City Arts Society (Klondike Institute of Art & Culture), Northern Cultural Expressions Society and Yukon First Nations Culture & Tourism Association.
- The department acquires original and diverse Yukon artwork annually through an agreement with the Friends of the Yukon Permanent Art Collection.
- Over 100 pieces of the collection are on display and accessible in more than 30 locations around the territory and beyond.

Additional response:

- The Arts Unit helps Yukon artists and craftspeople connect to and access audiences on territorial, national and international stages.
- The Arts Unit works closely with artists and organizations to increase accessibility to funding opportunities, with a commitment to providing support for Indigenous arts practices.

Context—this may be an issue because: The Arts Unit delivers programs of support for artists, collectives, community groups, creative economy workers, cultural

Session Briefing Note

Arts Unit

TAB # 22
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

carriers and arts non-profit societies. It oversees promotion, care and maintenance of Yukon government's art collections, including the Yukon Permanent Art Collection.

Background:

New funding programs

- The department launched the Express Micro-grant (EMG) and the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant (IACCMG) in 2022-23. Since the launch of EMG in September 2022 and IACCMG in January 2023, the programs have funded 273 recipients across the territory.
- In March 2023, Yukon government announced the Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund to support three individuals annually with \$50,000 to focus on their creative or cultural career and business skill development.

Yukon Permanent Art Collection (YPAC)

- 14 new works were added to YPAC in 2024 and are displayed in the Yukon Arts Centre's Community Gallery. The latest call for acquisitions closed in January and the decision-making processes are underway.
- The Yukon Arts Centre storage vault, where most of the collection is stored, has reached capacity. The lack of storage hinders the number and kinds of work that can be acquired. (see also – Tab 21 Arts and Heritage Collections)

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

March 13, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Creative Potential (CCIS)

Spring 2025

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Creative and cultural industries are an essential part of the Yukon's economy, well-being, and northern way of life.
- Our strategy, *Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries*, is aimed at growing and developing Yukon's creative and cultural industries.
- The strategy identifies 4 strategic objectives and 22 key actions which reflect input gathered through extensive public and sector engagement. We have identified 10 actions to be completed as Phase 1 implementation.
- These priority actions include modernizing existing funding; offering new funding streams; industry branding and promotion; marketing and export strategies; workshops; and labour market supports.

Additional response:

- In January 2025, the department issued a contract to identify datasets to regularly report on the progress of Yukon's creative and cultural industries.
- In 2024/25, in addition to continuing to fund the sector through the available funding programs, the department offered 9 professional development workshops for the arts sector: taxes for artists, art critique, photographing artwork, arts meet-up, installation of 3-D artwork, and diversifying income streams.
- A new policy on Yukon First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums was completed and approved in April 2024.
- We launched three new programs which provide an additional \$375,000 to the creative and cultural sectors. These are:
 - The Express Micro-grant,

Session Briefing Note

Creative Potential (CCIS)

TAB # 23
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

- the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant,
 - and the Creative and Cultural Career Advancement Fund.
- The partnership with Canada Council for the Arts to fund the Indigenous Artists and Cultural Carriers Micro-grant has been extended based on its success to date. (see **Tab 10 Funding Programs**).
- In 2022/23, \$500,000 was allocated for initiatives such as the doubling of the Yukon Permanent Art Collection acquisition budget, hosting the Arts Sector, and the analysis of funding programs. A progress report was released in May 2023.
- Over 30 professional development workshops for the creative and cultural sector have been offered by the department since 2022, with over 250 participants.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Some members of the public may be interested in the implementation status of the strategy.

Background:

- The Yukon's 2022 Culture GDP was \$72.3 million, representing 1.8% of the total territorial economy. Canada's 2022 Culture GDP was \$58.5 billion, representing 2.1% of Canada's total economy.
- The creative and cultural industries sector encompasses the creation, production, promotion, distribution and commercialization of cultural goods, as well as the labour force and institutions required to support it.

Session Briefing Note
Creative Potential (CCIS)

TAB # 23
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

- The share of culture jobs accounted for 3.3% of all jobs in Canada. Yukon culture jobs have increased 2.5% from 2021 to 2022 for a total of 802 culture jobs (2022).

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer
Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025
[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums Funding

Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- We are pleased to support 19 First Nation cultural centres and museums through financial agreements and by providing expertise and resources for collections care.
- A new policy on Yukon First Nations cultural centres and museums was approved in April 2024.
- The new policy establishes eligibility to access funding and clarifies the scope of funding and support services provided by the department.

Additional response:

- New funding approaches were developed with input from the sector, and resulted in a funding model that considers real world cost drivers and other factors,
- The model aims to increase organizational sustainability and be responsive to changing pressures on museums and cultural centres.
- Key considerations in the approach include: addressing historical inequities; collections size; hours and seasons of operation; and distance from Whitehorse.
- An additional \$413,000 will be distributed in 2025/26. This includes \$200,000 in new money, and \$213,000 of reprofiled department dollars.

Context—this may be an issue because: Museums and cultural centres are critical hubs for conserving and celebrating culture and heritage and part of the Yukon's visitor and tourist experience.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums Funding Tourism and Culture

Background:

- The department provides partial funding and support services to 19 museums and First Nation cultural centres in the Yukon and oversees the management of the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre.
- Past funding levels have been based on historical support rather than funding formulas and have not addressed funding inequities or recognized the different sources of operational funding from different levels of government.
- Between 2015/16 and 2017/18 operational funding for cultural centres and museums increased by 30%. In 2022/23, YG provided an additional 13.2% to their base operational transfer payment agreement amounts, based on Consumer Price Index since the last increase in 2017/18 and a further 2% increase in 2023/24. An additional \$155,000 in funding from other program areas was distributed among five not-for-profit museums in 2024/25.
- Services for cultural centres and museums are provided through operational and project funding, conservation and collections advice, and capacity development.
- The new policy states: The Yukon government will invest in strong, independent Yukon First Nation cultural centres and museums and provide support services, that respect self-determination, to share Yukon's stories within a unique northern context of reconciliation for Yukoners and visitors.
- In addition to the policy statement, the policy clarifies eligibility to access funding and support, investment, capacity building and support services, and includes updated definitions for First Nation cultural centres and museums.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

General

- Discoveries of fossils are common in the Yukon with placer mining uncovering thousands of fossil specimens each summer. Palaeontologists can collect hundreds of fossils from mines on regular mine site visits.
- All fossils collected in the Yukon since 1995 have been accessioned into the Yukon Fossil Collection in Whitehorse. The collection has over 50,000 specimens of ice age bones, teeth, horns, and some ivory and is growing rapidly.
- In the Yukon, fossils are protected under the *Historic Resources Act* and the Quartz and Placer Mining Land Use Regulations are one of the tools used to manage the mining activity around fossils and palaeontological sites.
- The collection of fossils from placer mines is possible because of placer miners following requirements in their land use permits, water licenses and relationships developed between individual miners, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon Palaeontology Program staff.
- Discoveries of artifacts are less common, but do occur during placer mining, quartz mining, mineral exploration and other development activities.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Discoveries in the Yukon may generate interest from media, scientists, and the public.
-

1. Nun Cho Ga Mammoth calf

Recommended response:

- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, with support from Yukon government, continues to lead the management of "Nun Cho Ga", the mammoth calf recovered from the Klondike goldfields on June 21, 2022.
- The Yukon government has been providing expertise and support to TH to care for, study, and preserve this rare discovery. Nun Cho Ga continues to be of international scientific and media interest.
- Communications and research activities involving Nun Cho Ga have been developed collaboratively by the Yukon government and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, who are now leading these activities.
- With direction and support from TH Elders on cultural protocols, Nun Cho Ga was delivered to the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) in Ottawa for conservation treatment in 2024.

Background:

- This discovery marks the first near-complete and best-preserved mummified woolly mammoth found in North America.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Elders named the mammoth "Nun Cho Ga", which means "Big Animal Baby" in the Han language.
- Tourism and Culture and Energy, Mines and Resources staff worked closely with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in staff and Elders during summer 2023 sharing cultural and scientific knowledge.
- In December 2023 Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, with the support of Tourism and Culture, hosted a community visioning session for citizens and an information session for Dawson City residents.
- Information from the visioning and information sessions, along with advice from Yukon government scientists and staff, supported Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in determining the next steps for research and interpretation.

2. MacMillan Pass Artifact

Recommended response:

- In September of 2023 an animal bone bearing carved markings was discovered at a mountain pass north of Dragon Lake, in the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND) and the Ross River Dene Council (RRDC) traditional territories.

Discoveries / Paleo / Artifacts

- In July of this year representatives from the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, the Ross River Dena Council and the Government of Yukon recovered the artifact and investigated the surrounding area.
- The age and exact purpose and significance of the artifact are not known at this time.
- The Government of Yukon is pleased to be providing technical and logistical assistance as the parties work together in support of the respectful stewardship of the object.

Background:

- Archaeology Program staff, with representatives from both affected First Nations, visited the site by helicopter and retrieved the artifact.
- Stewardship of the artifact and the possibility of further study is currently the subject of collaborative discussions between YG, RRDC and FNNND.

3. Steppe Mammoth discovered in June 2024 in Klondike

Recommended response:

- Scientifically significant fossils were discovered at a placer gold mine by the Yukon government Palaeontology program and University of Alberta field workers on 34 Pup, Gold Run Creek on June 9, 2024.
- The fossils include a partial fossil skull of a mammoth, an associated tusk, several other fossils of ice age horses, caribou, bison, and a possible scimitar cat fossil bone.
- Of scientific significance is a mammoth skull, tusk and other remains which, based on initial observations, may represent a Steppe Mammoth (*Mammuthus trogontherii*), an ancestor of the woolly mammoth.
- This discovery may be the first of this species ever found from permafrost in the Klondike region.
- A meeting was held in February 2025 between Yukon government representatives and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to establish a stewardship framework to protect, preserve and interpret this and other significant fossil discoveries from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory.

Background:

- This discovery was immediately reported by the mine operators to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage, who collaborated with the YG Palaeontology program to recover the mammoth skull and tusk from the mine site on June 10 and 11, 2024.
- The mammoth skull and tusk were retained by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage. Other fossils from the site were collected by the YG Palaeontology program and were transported to Whitehorse.
- Previous work at the 34 Pup site by the YG Palaeontology program and scientific collaborators from the University of Alberta and Stockholm University is underway and suggests fossils from this site could be older than 600,000 years, making them scientifically significant fossil collections.
- Some of these fossils have been sampled and research is currently underway.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Geographical Place Names

Tab # 26
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The process to change geographical place names in the Yukon is laid out in Chapter 13 of the Umbrella Final Agreement, which established the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board.
- In 2024, 17 recommendations from the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board were approved, as a result of submissions from the Tetlit Gwich'in Council; 1 place name change, 10 official names, and 6 alternate names.
- The program's priority is reinstating traditional Indigenous names and encouraging the removal of derogatory names.
- While the department plays a role in administration and program support, the considerations of recommendations are the authority of the Board, in consultation with First Nation governments.

Additional response:

- Several First Nations have submitted applications for renaming geographic features, which are first processed by the department and then reviewed by the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board.
- Any Yukoner can apply to name or rename geographical features such as lakes, rivers and mountains, in a way that reflects our diverse cultures, history and landscape.
- Occasionally submissions relate to removing derogatory or harmful names, which is part of a national and international movement.
- The department has identified 49 problematic place names that include derogatory language or are features named after people who carried out or supported racist or otherwise inappropriate acts.

Session Briefing Note

Geographical Place Names

Spring 2025Tourism and Culture

- The department has been in contact with Yukon First Nations to encourage the submission of applications for the most concerning names.
 - The Yukon's representative on the Geographical Names Board of Canada works with representatives from other jurisdictions to establish a nationwide approach to addressing derogatory names.
-

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Issues related to place names are periodically in the media.
-

Background:

- There is currently a backlog of around 300 submissions awaiting review and recommendations from the board.
- The department's program lead for place names reviews geographic place name submissions and coordinates consultation with affected First Nations. The applications then go to the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board for review, which then makes recommendations to the Minister of Tourism and Culture.
- The board meets at least three times per year to review applications and make recommendations to the Minister of Tourism and Culture.
- From time-to-time media reports have highlighted the fact that place names in Yukon contain derogatory words.
- Two such names within CAFN Traditional Territory were replaced with Ts'ach'än Dhäl and Ts'ach'än Chù. These names were proposed by CAFN and relate to traditional stories tied to the region.
- The replacement of these names from online sources is ongoing, with updates to the Yukon Gazetteer, GeoYukon Yukon Place Names layer and Canadian Geographic Names Database.

Session Briefing Note

Geographical Place Names

Tab # 26
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

- Further updates to official Government of Yukon mapping sources are continuing along with discussions with First Nations to consider remaining features with derogatory names.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Heritage Unit**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- The Heritage Unit is responsible for the research, preservation and interpretation of Yukon archaeological and palaeontological heritage resources in collaboration with First Nations.
- The unit provides financial and collections management support to 19 museums and First Nations cultural centres.
- The unit is also responsible for geographical place names, as well as administering licenses under the Yukon Scientists and Explorers Act.

Additional response:

- In partnership with Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Archaeology Program undertakes research projects documenting human history throughout the Yukon.
- The Yukon Archaeology Program reviews development projects, documents known heritage resources and areas of high potential, and makes recommendations on how to mitigate impacts on these resources.
- In partnership with Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Paleontology Program undertakes research projects documenting natural history in the Yukon, specifically remains including fossils or other objects that indicate the existence of extinct or prehistoric plants or animals.
- The Yukon Geographical Place Names Program manages the naming and renaming of geographical features. This includes lakes, rivers, creeks and mountains. Yukoners can submit place names that reflect our diverse cultures, history and landscape.
- The Heritage Unit also provides access to over \$2,000,000 in operational and project funding for Yukon First Nation cultural centres and museums and collections care support.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Heritage Unit

Tourism and Culture

Context—this may be an issue because:

Yukon's history and heritage and are valued and enjoyed by Yukoners.

Background:

Archaeology/Palaeontology Programs:

- The preservation of organic materials in alpine areas (ice patches) is exceptional in southern Yukon and, as a result, artifacts have remained intact in snow and ice for thousands of years.
- Palaeontological specimens that have been preserved in permafrost for more than 10,000 years are unearthed in the Klondike goldfields because of mining activities and in Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory as a result of erosion.

Yukon First Nation Cultural Centres and Museums:

- Government of Yukon supports eight First Nation cultural centres, three municipal museums and eight not-for-profit museums.
- Two YG funding programs support museums and cultural centres totaling over \$2 million annually. (see also Tab 10 Funding Programs)
- A new policy on Yukon First Nations Cultural Centres and Museums was approved in April 2024. The new policy establishes eligibility to access funding and clarifies the scope of funding and support services provided by the department's Heritage Unit.

Yukon Geographical Place Names Program:

- Government of Yukon recognizes the importance of traditional names used by Yukon First Nations people for geographic features and areas.
- Work is underway with Yukon First Nations through the Yukon Geographical Place Names Program to record and name geographical features throughout the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note

Heritage Unit

TAB # 27
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

Yukon Scientists and Explorers Act:

- The *Yukon Scientists and Explorers Act* states that anyone entering the Yukon to carry out scientific research requires a licence. Research carried out for commercial purposes is exempt. The department is responsible for licensing under the Act.

Approved by

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Highway Rest Areas**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Highway rest areas are an important service for tourists and Yukoners alike.
- Tourism and Culture is working with Highways and Public Works to ensure that rest areas will continue to highlight and interpret Yukon's points of interest through signage.
- Over the last few years, the cost of maintaining rest stops has increased significantly, leading to budget pressures and reduced services.

Additional response:

- A number of rest stops were removed in 2023 due to the very high costs. Signage at these sites clearly indicates nearby alternatives.
- The department continues to ensure that infrastructure meets the needs of highway travelers, while also providing residents and visitors with an awareness of Yukon's natural, cultural, and historical places at point-of-interest rest areas.
- The Departments of Tourism and Culture and Environment are working to upgrade the Sights and Sites travel mobile app, which promotes more than 200 sites throughout the Yukon, including rest areas, and engages users in learning about the history, culture and wildlife of the territory, as well as tourism and recreation opportunities.
- In 2025, the Tourism Branch assumed responsibility of the app and will add Sights and Sites content to the Travel Yukon branded tools that help visitors plan their trip to the Yukon.

Context—this may be an issue because:

Yukoners and tourists travel the highways and require outhouses and rest areas.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Highway Rest Areas**Tourism and Culture

Background:

- The Department of Tourism and Culture has identified \$295,000 in funding in 2025-26 towards interpretive signage, infrastructure upgrades and rest area maintenance.
- A large portion of the budget for “Scenic Drives” is now used for contracts for rest stop maintenance, including the rising cost of educutions (pump-outs).
- Other “Scenic Drives” priority projects in 2025 include development of interpretive rest areas on the Top of the World Highway, updating and installing interpretive panels at several smaller sites, development of the Canol Trucks interpretive site and the launch of the Venus Mill virtual tour.
- Tourism and Culture is responsible for a total of 13 rest stops with outhouses and garbage receptacles. An MOU with HPW is signed each year as HPW manages the maintenance contracts for the rest stops under Tourism and Culture.
- HPW closed three Tourism and Culture sites in 2023, all on the Klondike Highway, on behalf of Tourism and Culture. They were closed due to high maintenance costs and to their proximity to other more prominent rest areas. The Stewart Crossing rest area requires extensive maintenance this year to address sinking outhouses and other structural issues.
- There are approximately 130 rest areas and pullouts on the Yukon highway network, owned by either HPW, TC, Environment, Community Services, or Parks Canada.
- The average distance between pullouts is 28 km. The maximum distance on class 1–3 highways is 70 km. About half of the 130 pullouts have outhouses.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Highway Rest Areas

Tourism and Culture

- Government of Yukon is continuing to install electric vehicle fast-charging stations along Yukon Highways. Currently, two Tourism and Culture-owned rest areas have EV charging stations installed (Canol Road and Stewart Crossing).

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Historic Sites Unit

TAB # 29
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Government of Yukon works closely with Yukon First Nations governments and communities to support the research, conservation, and interpretation of our historic places.
- Yukon is the only Canadian jurisdiction that has co-owned and co-managed historic sites with self-governing First Nations.
- These include: Rampart House and LaPierre House with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation; Fort Selkirk with Selkirk First Nation; Conrad with Carcross Tagish First Nation, and Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy & Fort Constantine with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (see table below for full list).

Additional response:

- The department's interpretive program develops interpretive panels for historic sites, rest stops, and self-guided walking tours in collaboration with communities and First Nations, and through digital media.
- The department works with site managers to implement Management Plans and activities at our co-owned co-managed historic sites, including: continued conservation at Conrad on Building 1; a bridge feasibility study at Rampart House; and log conservation on historic buildings at Fort Selkirk and Rampart House.
- In Spring 2023, Forty Mile Historic Site was severely damaged by flooding and ice jams. The planning for the site is underway.

Context—this may be an issue because: Yukon Historic Sites are valued and enjoyed by Yukoners.

Background:

- The Historic Sites Unit administers the Yukon Historic Resources Fund, the Historic Properties Assistance Fund and the Heritage Trails program to provide

Session Briefing Note

Historic Sites Unit

TAB # 29
Spring 2025
Tourism and Culture

funding for the study, conservation, development and interpretation of historic sites and trails. (see also Tab #10 Funding Programs)

- There are 12 Yukon Historic Sites and 22 municipal historic sites designated under the *Historic Resources Act*.
- Projects underway in 2025/26 include:
 - Continuation of log conservation work with First Nation partners at Rampart House, Fort Selkirk, and Conrad.
 - Building conservation and maintenance work on Qikiqtaruk - Herschel Island, including mold abatement in the community house building and reroofing the customs warehouse.
 - Trail development and reinstallation of vehicles at South Canol Truck Dump Heritage Reserve.
 - Work with Yukon First Nations, municipalities, and stakeholders to document historic places throughout the Yukon for interpretation, development assessment review and understanding.
 - Continue to provide financial and technical support to the City of Dawson as they undertake an update to their Heritage Conservation Plan and bylaws in 2025.
 - Completion of the Venus Mill virtual tour, developed in collaboration with Carleton University Immersive Media Studio.
 - Stabilization of buildings and begin implementation of conservation plan for Forty Mile Historic Site.
 - Work with the Advisory Committee to begin working on promotion and management of Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Site.
 - Development of interpretive rest areas on the Top of the World Highway in partnership with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

Approved

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Tourism and Culture

Date prepared: August 23, 2024
Last Updated: January 16, 2025
Page 2 of 3

[Return to ToC](#)

Session Briefing Note
Historic Sites Unit

First Nation	Site Name
Selkirk First Nation	Fort Selkirk
First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun	Lansing Post
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy, Fort Constantine
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation	Rampart House LaPierre House
Carcross/ Tagish First Nation	Tagish Post
Carcross/ Tagish First Nation	Conrad
Kwanlin Dün First Nation	Canyon City
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations	Sha'washe

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****South Canol Heritage Reserve**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response

- The South Canol Truck Dump Heritage Reserve is a grouping of salvaged vehicles located at Johnson's Crossing near the junction of the Canol Road and the Alaska Highway.
- The site once contained approximately 60 World War II era vehicles connected to the 1940's construction of the Canol Pipeline.
- Staff at Tourism and Culture worked collaboratively with Teslin Tlingit Council and held several public engagement sessions to create a plan to revitalize the site. This includes building a short interpretive trail to display the returned vehicles.
- As of September 2024, several of the higher-value trucks have been moved back to the original site, and work is anticipated to start on the interpretive trail in spring of 2025.

Additional response:

- The cost estimate is \$147,000 and will be phased over three years. The project has recently been reviewed by YESAB (2024-0133) and was recommended to proceed, subject to terms and conditions.
- Trail clearing and construction will proceed this year with the anticipation of opening the trail to the public by 2026.
- The interpretive signage will be developed in cooperation with the Teslin Tlingit Council and is planned to be in place by 2026.

Context—this may be an issue because:

Relocation of the artifacts (trucks) back to the site and YESAB review may draw interest in the plan.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

South Canol Heritage Reserve

Tourism and Culture

Background:

- On September 23, 2022, the Government of Yukon became aware that historic objects from the South Canol Truck Dump, a heritage reserve managed by the Department of Tourism and Culture, were mistakenly taken to the Teslin landfill.
- This reserve is located at the south end of the Canol Road at Johnson's Crossing and consists mainly of World War II era trucks. A nearby interpretive pullout with additional trucks and historical information remains intact.
- An interpretive trail and display of WWII-era vehicles commemorating the Canadian Oil (CANOL) Project will be developed on the 1.6 ha historic reserve.
- The new trail will be approximately 300 m long and 2 m wide. Approximately eight to ten display areas will be cleared along the trail for placement of individual vehicles and artefacts, and a central interpretive area with informational signage will be installed at the start of the trail.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Forty Mile Historic Site**Tourism and Culture

Recommended response:

- Ch'édähdëk (Forty Mile), a significant cultural heritage site located downriver from Dawson City at the confluence of the Forty Mile and Yukon Rivers, was heavily impacted by floods and ice jams during the 2023 spring breakup.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) and Yukon government have completed an initial site assessment and building stabilization and have contracted the development of a Conservation Plan that will guide site cleanup and conservation.
- The impacts of flooding do not change the cultural significance or the ancestral legacy that these lands hold for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Yukon.

Additional response:

- In 2024, Tourism and Culture contracted ERA Architects Inc. to develop a conservation plan for the site, which includes community engagement and will provide a range of conservation treatment options to guide future work and use of the site.
- The final recommended conservation plan will be implemented over the next ten+ years and will uphold the intent of the TH Final Agreement, Statement of Significance and the Outstanding Universal Values and attributes of authenticity identified in the Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage site.
- A contract initiated in 2024 lifted and leveled several of the workcamp buildings, with work on the remainder of buildings slated for completion by June 2025. Subsequent work in 2025 will focus on repairing the main trail bridge and mitigating the risks posed by

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2025****Forty Mile Historic Site**Tourism and Culture

damaged and unstable heritage buildings. The site will remain closed to the public due to safety concerns for 2025.

Context—this may be an issue because:

The public may want to hear about the status of Forty Mile Historic Site.

Background:

- Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site is identified under Section 3 of Schedule A of Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement as a co-owned, co-managed heritage site.
 - The Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site is situated on islands and riverbank terraces comprising approximately 50 ha at the mouth of the Fortymile River where it enters the Yukon River. The site includes a significant material record of late prehistoric use and occupation, overlain by archaeological evidence and collapsed and standing structures from the historic period dating as far back as 1886.
 - A management plan for the site was developed in 2006 by a Steering Committee with representatives from Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) and included public engagement.
 - The Conservation Plan includes guidance on conservation priorities at the site, based on TH input, as well as public engagement and conservation best practices.
 - The Department of Tourism and Culture has an annual O&M budget of \$107,000 for Forty Mile Historic Site, \$95,000 of which is provided to TH through a Transfer Payment Agreement for the conservation and maintenance of Forty Mile Historic Sites. An annual workplan is developed cooperatively to guide work at the site.
 - The Department of Tourism and Culture is working with Yukon Emergency Measures Organization to submit a claim to the Disaster Financial Assistance program for recoverable funds.
 - In summer 2024, TH and YG prioritized work to complete brushing around the site, reopening of trails, and leveling work camp buildings.
-

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Forty Mile Historic Site

Tourism and Culture

- Ch'édähdëk (Forty Mile) is one of eight sites that make up the Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Site. The Advisory Committee will be required to report on the damage to the site and impacts to its integrity, and subsequent work to conserve and repair it.

Approved by:

Sierra van der Meer

Deputy Minister, Tourism and Culture

January 30, 2025

[Date approved]

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

Recommended response:

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

Additional response

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

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

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

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

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Corporate Note – Budget Highlights

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

Background:

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

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

February 25, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date Approved

Prepared for Minister Silver
Finance

Date prepared: February 24, 2025

Last Updated:

Page 4 of 4

Return to ToC

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

Recommended response:

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

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

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

Additional response:

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

Session Briefing Note

2024-25 Supplementary Overview (Corporate Note)

Embargoed until tabled

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

February 24, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved

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

Recommended response:

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

Additional response (federal government changes in policy):

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

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

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

Third response:

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

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

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

Background:

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

Approved by:**Dennis Berry**

Deputy Minister of Environment

March 10, 2025

Date approved

Jessica Schultz

Deputy Minister of Finance

March 10, 2025

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Third response

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Inflation – Recent performance and outlook

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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

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

HOUSING

Capital projects supporting housing affordability

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

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

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

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

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

Winter Electrical Affordability Rebate (Yukon Development Corporation)

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

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

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

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

Affordable Heat Pump Program (Energy, Mines and Resources)

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

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Dental Care program (Health and Social Services)

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

Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement (Health and Social Services)

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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

Social Assistance Review (Health and Social Services)

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

FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

Universal Child Care Program (Education)

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

Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund (Education)

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

Food in Schools program (Education)

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

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

Fertility Tax Credit (Finance)

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

Yukon Child Benefit (Health and Social Services and Finance)

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

Out of Home Childcare Increases (Health and Social Services)

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

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

BUSINESSES and COMMUNITIES

Paid sick leave program (Economic Development)

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

Yukon Trade Resilience Program (Economic Development)

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

Curbside Recycling (Community Services)

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

Session Briefing Note
Inflation and Affordability
(Corporate Note)

Approved by:

Jessica Schultz

April 15, 2025

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

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

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

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

Additional response:

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

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

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

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Implementation

Spring 2025
Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Third response:

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

ENV #20 / EMR #54
Spring 2025

Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

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

Approved by:

Dennis Berry

February 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Environment

Date approved

Paul Moore

February 5, 2025

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

Context:

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

Background:

Section 1: Yukon population

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

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Section 2: Housing statistics

Average Whitehorse house prices (YBS)

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

Yukon rents and vacancies (YBS)

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

New residential permits issued, Yukon (YBS)

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

Residential building construction, Yukon (YBS)

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

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

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

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

Section 3: Capital projects recently completed by YHC or partners

Since 2022:

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

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

YHC projects completed 2022-2024

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

Major partnership projects completed 2022-2024

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

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

YHC projects underway

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

Major partnership projects underway or completed

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

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

YHC projects planned

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

Section 5: Support for new residential land development

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

Section 6: Tenants in Yukon Housing RGI units

YHC Unit Status as of April 24, 2025

Breakdown	Employee	RGI	Total
-----------	----------	-----	-------

Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

Length of RGI tenancy as of April 24, 2025

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

*The longest running tenancy is 29 years.

Section 7: Waitlist

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

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

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

Community	Employee
-----------	----------

Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

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

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

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

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

Time on Waitlist based on Secondary Status

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

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

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

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

Prepared for Minister responsible for
Yukon Housing Corporation

Date prepared: January 27, 2025

Last updated: April 25, 2025

Page 6 of 10

[Return to ToC](#)

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

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

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

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

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

Section 9: Loans and Grants programs

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

Developer Build Loan Program

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

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

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

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

MMRCP

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

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

Grants stream:

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

Loans stream:

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

Accessibility stream:

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

Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Emergency stream:

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

Session Briefing Note

TAB #1
Spring 2025

Housing Landscape

Yukon Housing Corporation

Wildfire Grants stream:

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

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

Approved by:

Samantha Paterson
President, Yukon Housing Corporation

April 25, 2025
Date Approved

Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Update on Calls to Action

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

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

Additional response:

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Prepared for Premier Ranj Pillai
Executive Council Office

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

Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Update on Calls to Action

Executive Council
Office

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

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2025 01 30

Date

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

Recommended response:

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

Additional responses:

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

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

Context — this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

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

Economic and labour market

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

Finances

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

Local procurement

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

Independent Review Board

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

Historic overview

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

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2025

Eagle Gold Mine – Impacts

EMR-ECO-FIN

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

Approved By:

Sierra van der Meer

April 29, 2025

Deputy Minister
Energy, Mines and Resources

Date Approved

Justin Ferbey

2025 04 22

Deputy Minister
Executive Council Office

Date Approved

Jessica Schultz

April 25, 2025

Deputy Minister
Department of Finance

Date Approved

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

Recommended response:

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

Response to Tariffs

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Economic and Trade Impact of Tariffs

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

First Ministers' Meetings

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Context—this may be an issue because:

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

Background:

Canada-US relations

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

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Yukon government's April 3, 2025 response

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

Yukon government's March 4, 2025 response

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

Canada and United States Relations – Corporate Response

Executive Council Office

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

Approved by:

Justin Ferbey

2024 04 07

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date Approved