

# BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## MAKING YUKON THE BEST PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, PLAY AND RAISE A FAMILY

### Meeting the Challenges of Today

- 2015-2016 Budget of \$1.367 billion is the largest budget in Yukon's history and includes the largest Capital Budget in Yukon's history at \$312.779 million.
- 2015-2016 Budget is all about putting Yukoners to work at a time when one of territory's economic mainstays, mining, is experiencing a downturn.
- Investing \$1.4 million to maintain enhanced funding for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program to enable grass roots mineral exploration programs to continue in light of low mineral prices.
- Providing a new double tax credit for 2015 calendar year allowing claims holders to file for twice the value of work done at their claim.
- Stimulating the private sector economy by investing in public infrastructure; amending Yukon's taxation regime; and improving our regulatory and permitting environment.
- Strong fiscal management over the past decade, is allowing Yukon to make major investments in public infrastructure, however, slower growth in Territorial Formula Financing over the coming years will require restraint and responsible investment.

## MAKING YUKON THE BEST PLACE TO LIVE

### Reducing the Tax Burden and Putting More Money in the Pockets of Yukoners

- Amending the Yukon *Income Tax Act* and Regulations to:
  - (1) revise the personal income tax structure to reduce the burden on taxpayers;
  - (2) significantly increasing the Yukon Child Benefit;
  - (3) increase the political contribution tax credit to match on an ongoing basis the federal political contribution tax credit; and
  - (4) mirror the Yukon Children's Fitness Tax Credit with the federal Children's Fitness Tax Credit.
- \$3.5 million to extend the Interim Electrical Rebate for another year that provides customers a maximum rebate of \$26.62 per month based on the first 1000 kilowatt hours they use for an annual savings up to \$319 a year.

**Improving Regulatory and Permitting Regimes**

- \$841,000 with \$370,000 flowing to First Nations to implement the Mine Licensing Improvement Initiative (MLII) that will clarify the roles of regulatory agencies and provide certainty for companies who want to do business in Yukon.
- Continuing work on the Mineral Development Strategy (MDS) covering business climate, regulatory streamlining, infrastructure, First Nation engagement, environmental stewardship and workforce training.

**Promoting Cooperative Governance, Partnerships and Reconciliation Agreements with Yukon First Nations**

- Entered into negotiations with the White River First Nation, the Kaska Dena Council, Liard First Nation and the Ross River Dena Council to negotiate non-treaty reconciliation agreements.
- \$2.7 million contribution to the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to support the construction of a new community and recreation centre in Old Crow.
- \$250,000 to the Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Carcross Tagish First Nation to support a skilled trades and entrepreneurship project for First Nation youth.
- Entering second year of a three year, \$1 million funding agreement with the Kwanlin Dun First Nation to support the Jackson Lake Healing Camp.
- \$2.7 million in 2014-2015 contribution to the Carcross Tagish First Nation to support the construction of a learning centre in Carcross.
- \$583,000 agreement with the Kluane First Nation to collect geophysical data via an airborne survey of a portion of the Kluane Ranges.

**Promoting Partnerships with Canada, Our Sister Territories and the Provinces**

- Since Canada owns all the land and resources North of 60°, it will be the major beneficiary of resource development in the North, and accordingly it should be willing to partner with Yukon and her sister territories by investing in major infrastructure projects to help develop the North's vast resources.
- Developing Yukon's massive resource potential will require governments to make major investments in hydroelectric energy, electrical grid connections with British Columbia and Alaska and upgrading of major resource roads such as the Dawson Range Road, Canol Road and Nahanni Range Road.
- Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation are planning a new large-scale hydro dam to power our future over ten-to-fifteen years, and we will be investing \$2 million in hydro infrastructure in 2015-2016 as well as \$4.3 million for the Keno-Stewart Crossing transmission line.
- On the national stage, Yukon will become the first territory to chair the Council of the Federation (COF) and host the Premier's annual summer meeting in 2016.

- A new Gas Tax Administration Agreement will provide approximately \$163 million over 10 years (2014-2024) for public infrastructure projects in Yukon communities.
- \$29 million will be invested in Building Canada Fund projects in Yukon in 2015-2016.
- \$342 million from the New Building Canada Fund will be provided to Yukon over the next 10 years in a 75% Canada 25% Yukon split.
- Over \$2 million from Canada's Northern Wellness Approach during the next 5 years with \$531,000 allocated for 2015-2016 to build capacity at the community level and promote healthy, active living.

### **Promoting Community Development and a Clean Environment**

- \$5.05 million to meet land development needs in rural Yukon, making land available for Yukoners.
- \$7.7 million for the start of phase 3 of Whistle Bend in Whitehorse making more lots available for Yukoners.
- \$400,000 annual allocation to residents under the Municipal Domestic Water Well program.
- \$250,000 for a new water delivery truck in Ross River.
- Addressing community safety issues:
  - \$850,000 to fund Fire Smart projects to mitigate the risk of wildfires across the territory;
  - \$1.06 million to relocate the RCMP Operational Communication Centre – Public Safety Answering Point to the Yukon Government's Emergency Response Centre to provide basic 9-1-1 Emergency Services to all Yukon communities;
  - \$610,000 for new fire trucks;
  - \$390,000 for wildland fire management vehicles;
  - \$310,000 for a new ambulance;
  - \$3.792 million for a new fire hall in Carcross; and
  - \$1.7 million for flood and erosion control projects throughout the territory including projects in Carcross, Mayo and Liard River.

- Maintaining a clean environment and protecting wildlife:
  - over \$5 million for remediation work at government-owned contaminated sites to minimize risks to human health and environment with allocations in 2015-2016 of which \$2.5 million is to remediate the Marwell Tar Pit, the largest hydro-carbon-contaminated site in Yukon, and \$2.646 million is for the remediation of other contaminated sites;
  - transfer of Special Waste Collection Program from Department of Environment to Department of Community Services to complement its programs for recycling and solid waste collection;
  - \$641,000 to provide recycling processors with diversion credits for period of December 2014 to December 2015 to cover the gap between their costs and the price received for recycling material;
  - \$650,000 in groundwater monitoring at 27 Yukon Government owned landfill sites;
  - implementing the Yukon Water Strategy and Action Plan;
  - continuation of a three-year pilot program to minimize human-wildlife conflict; and
  - transfer of Animal Protection Program from Community Services to Environment to reside within the Animal Health Unit under Yukon's Chief Veterinary Officer.

## **MAKING YUKON THE BEST PLACE TO WORK**

- \$312.779 million Capital Budget, the largest in Yukon's history, to put Yukoners to work building major public infrastructure at a time when Yukon's resource-based economy is experiencing challenges.
- \$60.687 million transportation budget to put Yukoners to work building, contracting and upgrading our highways, resource roads, bridges and airports:
  - \$9.925 million from the Shakwak Agreement to rehabilitate sections of the north Alaska Highway impacted by thawing permafrost;
  - \$2.265 million of remediation work on other sections of the Alaska Highway;
  - \$1.3 million for the planning study of the Whitehorse Corridor section of the Alaska Highway;
  - \$9.73 million to reconstruct the remaining unimproved sections of the Campbell Highway terminating at km 190;
  - \$2.91 million for riprap on the side slopes of the Dempster Highway along the shoreline of the Blackstone and Ogilvie Rivers and Engineer Creek;
  - \$750,000 to restore and rehabilitate the Dempster Highway's infrastructure;

- \$770,000 preventative maintenance on the Klondike Highway;
- \$3.325 million to construct staff living quarters for maintenance camps at Swift River, Stewart Crossing and the Dempster Highway;
- \$1.5 million to replace the bridge deck approach and guide rail on the Partridge Creek Bridge;
- \$350,000 to design the replacement of the Nares Bridge on the South Klondike Highway in order to handle transportation of bulkhauls from Yukon mines;
- \$200,000 to complete work on the Tatchun Creek Bridge;
- \$1.789 million to provide pavement overlays to the Parallel Runway on Taxiway A and E including the development of 20 lease lots on the south side of Apron II at the Whitehorse Airport; and
- \$4.865 million for upgrading of community aerodromes including those at Dawson City and Watson Lake.
- \$13.5 million to provide maintenance and upgrading of government buildings.
- \$11 million in tech infrastructure of which \$4.8 million is for e-Health.
- \$2.1 million for school-based IT.
- \$826,000 to extend the Technology and Telecommunication Directorate beyond its two-year mandate to support the business development phase of the Diverse Fibre Project with the goal of building a second fibre optic link into Yukon through the Skagway-Juneau link or through NWT utilizing the Mackenzie Valley and Dempster Highway.
- Nine-day tourism mission to Asia in late February early March as part of the Yukon NOW marketing program produced important accomplishments:
  - launching of Tourism Yukon's first ever Chinese website: [www.travelyukon.cn](http://www.travelyukon.cn);
  - signing of Yukon's largest ever partner agreement between Yukon Government and the Canadian Tourism Commission in Japan;
  - commitments by Japanese and Chinese tour operators to enter cooperative marketing agreements to market Yukon travel packages; and
  - increased awareness among Japanese and Chinese tour operators of Yukon as a year-round travel destination.
- Yukon NOW marketing program released a new winter tourism television commercial in February that was broadcast 500 times during February on 24 network and specialty channels across Canada generating almost 26 million views.
- Second winter television commercial has been developed for broadcast during the fall of 2015.

- Season extension of all Visitor Information Centres from May 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 20% funding increase over next two fiscal years for museums and First Nation cultural centres increasing funding from \$1.54 million in 2014-2015 to close to \$1.9 million by 2016-2017.
- \$25,000 for Dawson City Arts Society.
- \$25,000 for Yukon Arts Centre to manage public programming at the Whitehorse Waterfront Wharf through its management of the Old Firehall.
- \$100,000 to upgrade exhibits at the Beringia Interpretive Centre.
- \$200,000 per year, over three years to enhance Yukon's Paleontology Program's research and resource capabilities in the Klondike goldfields in cooperation with the placer mining industry.
- \$775,000 to design and begin construction of a paleontology facility in Dawson City.
- \$629,000 for design phase of the Yukon Archives vault expansion.

## **MAKING YUKON THE BEST PLACE TO PLAY**

- \$400,000 increase in Community Recreation Assistance Grant funding for unincorporated Yukon communities to support community recreation, wellness and active living.
- \$1 million to support Yukon's participation in the 2016 Arctic Winter Games in Nuuk, Greenland.
- \$100,000 in support of the Arctic X Games - an alternate event to be hosted in Yukon to provide a competitive opportunity for participants in those sports not reflected in the 2016 Arctic Winter games.
- \$325,000 for Yukon participation in the Western Canada Summer Games in Alberta this August.
- \$400,000 for preliminary geotechnical work and detailed design of the new soccer and running track sports complex in the Whistle Bend subdivision in Whitehorse.
- \$500,000 for the development of a new 35 site campground at Conrad on Tagish Lake's Windy Arm in collaboration with the Carcross Tagish First Nation.
- \$76,000 to allow 10 campgrounds to open May 8<sup>th</sup> , weather permitting, rather than the May long weekend.

## **MAKING YUKON THE BEST PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY**

- \$22.316 million for the new MRI and Emergency Room Expansion at the Whitehorse General Hospital, the first MRI North of 60°.

- \$2.4 million for programs formerly funded by the federal government under the Territorial Health Access Fund (THAF) that are now funded by Yukon and include programs for Palliative Care, Public Health and Prevention, Rural Mental Health Services and Chronic Conditions Management.
- \$8.892 million from the new Territorial Health Investment Fund (THIF) with the Territorial components comprising chronic disease management and mental wellness while the Pan-Territorial includes e-mental Health Supports and Yukon Tele-psychiatry programs.
- \$4.811 million capital funding for e-Health comprising a Client Registry, a Drug Information System and a Lab Information System.
- Canada Health Infoway is providing \$6 million of the total \$10 million project cost.
- Yukon is a leader in contending with FASD:
  - establishment of a local Adult Diagnostic Clinic to replace the current itinerant model;
  - training physicians and psychologists to better respond to individuals with FASD; and
  - investing \$298,000 for the completion of the FASD Prevalence Study to look at the incidence of FASD, substance abuse and mental health issues in the adult corrections population.
- \$1.957 million for the purchase of the Oblate Centre on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Whitehorse to be converted into a small continuing care facility supplying 10 beds.
- \$26 million initial allocation for the construction of the 150-bed Whistle Bend Care facility that will be designed to provide for future expansion.
- \$7.8 million to complete the 15-bed McDonald Lodge continuing care facility in Dawson City.
- \$659,000 operation and maintenance funding to convert a building in Whitehorse in order to provide transitional housing for persons with mental health conditions for a period of 2 months to 2 years.
- \$4.2 million to rebuild the St. Elias adult group home to support Yukoners suffering from cognitive disabilities, and increasing the capacity from 5 to 10 spaces.
- \$21 million for the construction of the new Sarah Steele building to provide enhanced medically supported detox, a separate youth detox unit, concurrent inpatient treatment for males and females and continuous intake.
- Over \$13 million for the construction of a new Salvation Army centre that will provide improved and expanded services to Yukon's most vulnerable citizens.
- \$3.576 million for the replacement of the RCMP detachment in Faro.
- \$504,000 annual funding for the next 3 years for the Community Wellness Court.

- \$281,000 over 3 years for the provision of a Woman's Legal Advocate.
- \$450,000 has been allocated over 3 years starting in 2013 to support Aboriginal women's organizations, in response to the second Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summit recommendations of 2012.
- October will see the launch of an interactive website by the Women's Directorate showcasing a current profile of women's equality in Yukon based on indicators like health, education, economic security, leadership, child care, safety, arts and athletics.
- Housing is a Yukon Government priority and the Northern Housing Trust funding is being allocated as follows:
  - \$1.395 million for affordable rental units of which \$1.16 million is for units in Carmacks and \$235,226 is for units in Carcross;
  - \$3.5 million for the Municipal Rental Construction Program to partner with municipalities to increase the supply of rental housing in Yukon communities;
  - \$1 million for the Rental Housing Allowance for families to enable low and moderate income families to access rental housing in the private market with the direct subsidy aimed at reducing incidences of core needs;
  - \$800,000 for Rental Quality Enhancement Grants to increase the quality of rental housing stock in Yukon to meet or exceed the minimum rental standards;
  - \$800,000 for Accessibility Enhancement Grants to increase accessibility of housing stock for homeowners and landlords;
  - \$480,000 for Housing Action Plan (HAP) implementation to provide contracting resources to implement HAP; and
  - \$250,000 for a public, private partnership plan for 5<sup>th</sup> and Rogers designed to increase the supply of affordable rental housing as well as meet other needs. This plan will maximize private sector investment and involve the City of Whitehorse.
- \$1.565 million per year over 5 years in matching contributions from CMHC and the Yukon Government to fund affordable housing projects under the Investment and Affordable Housing (IAH) agreement.
- \$13.5 million over 2 years to construct a new 48-unit seniors building on Front Street in Whitehorse.
- 6-unit seniors building in Mayo is to be completed this summer.
- \$7.478 million to complete the construction of the new F.H. Collins School in Whitehorse.
- \$2.97 million to provide furniture and equipment for the new F.H. Collins School.
- \$3 million to upgrade the current Technical Education Wing of the F.H. Collins School.

- \$6.388 million in funding for the Yukon Research Centre for the next 5 years and a new 5 1/2 year funding agreement with Yukon College to support the operation of the Northern Institute of Social Justice.
- \$5.991 million from the federal government under the Canada-Yukon Job Fund Agreement (CJF) over the next 6 years starting in 2014 to encourage greater employment involvement in training and to enable Yukoners to develop the skills they need to find and maintain employment.
- \$5 million over 4 years beginning April 1, 2014 from the Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities (LMAPD) to provide labour market support to persons with disabilities to develop skills and experience they need for employment.