



Dear Neighbours,

As we reflect on a somewhat challenging 2024, I want to remind everyone of the strength, courage, and resilience that defines our community. This year has not been easy, but we have made significant strides in addressing the housing needs in our communities, improving infrastructure, and advancing health care. We also saw important developments such as the House of Commons study on Yukon salmon stocks in FOPQ and the report being tabled to the House. As we move into 2025, I would like to extend my best wishes for peace and hope, and encourage you to take time to reconnect with loved ones during the holiday season. Let us continue to support each other in the coming year. Thank you for your continued support, thoughtful engagement and commitment to our community.



Earlier this month, we celebrated Yukon Days on the Hill – and incredible week that brings the vibrant spirit of the North right here to Ottawa!

We gathered parliamentarians, the AFN Regional Chief, the Grand Chief, representatives from the Yukon Territorial Government, and numerous First Nations Chiefs from the Yukon, and other distinguished guests from the territory.

With so many Yukoners were in town, we made a several important announcements, which I will touch on later. It was a great opportunity to facilitate meaningful conversations and connect Yukoners with folks here in Ottawa.

The Yukon is a place that leads with vision and determination. This collaborative spirit is essential for tackling the complex challenges we face and for building a stronger, more inclusive Canada.

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The Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program provides excellent opportunities for youth in our territory. Starting November 19th, 2024, employers in Yukon have begun applying for funding through the 2025 CSJ program. This program provides wage subsidies to support employers from not-for-profit organizations, as well as public and private sector organizations with 50 or fewer full-time employees, to help provide and create work experiences for youth aged 15 to 30 years.

**Applications will close on December 19th, 2024, at 11:59 PT.**

#### HOW TO APPLY

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#### **We're providing a tax break for all Canadians.**

The government can't set prices at the checkout, but it can help Canadians with more money in their pocket. To help them buy the things they need and save for the things they want, Tax Break for All Canadians Act in Parliament has been introduced and voted on in Parliament.

This means, beginning on December 14th, there will be a **two-month Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) break** for essentials such as:

Prepared foods, including vegetable trays, pre-made meals and salads, and sandwiches;

Restaurant meals, whether dine-in, takeout, or delivery;

Snacks, including chips, candy, and granola bars;

Beer, wine, and cider;

Pre-mixed alcoholic beverages below 7 per cent ABV;

Children's clothing and footwear, car seats, and diapers;

Children's toys, such as board games, dolls, and video game consoles;

Books, print newspapers, and puzzles for all ages; and,

Christmas trees and similar decorative trees.



This will provide Yukoners with financial relief over the holiday period and stimulate spending in the following months. I recognize that our small businesses have faced numerous challenges this season, and I hope this measure will boost sales during a typically quiet time of year. Make sure to get out there and support locals when shopping this holiday season!

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The Arctic is undergoing significant changes due to a combination of shifting geopolitical dynamics, evolving security threats, and the accelerating impacts of climate change. These changes underscore the need for strong leadership, particularly from Canada, to navigate this transforming landscape. In response to these challenges, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mélanie Joly, recently announced the launch of the **Arctic Foreign Policy (AFP)**.

The AFP marks a major step forward for Canada, building on months of consultation with provincial and territorial governments as well as Indigenous groups, including Inuit, First Nations, and Métis. The policy was also shaped by discussions with key

Arctic nations like Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States, all of which share Canada's interests in the region.

This comprehensive diplomatic strategy is designed to ensure Canada's continued engagement in Arctic matters, addressing both current needs and emerging challenges. The AFP is intended to complement Canada's 2019 **Arctic and Northern Policy Framework (ANPF)**, which seeks to safeguard sovereignty, promote national interests, and ensure the Arctic remains a stable, prosperous, and secure region.

The AFP is structured around four key pillars:

**Asserting Canada's sovereignty** in the Arctic.

**Advancing Canada's interests** through pragmatic diplomacy.

**Leadership on Arctic governance** and addressing multilateral challenges.

**Promoting a more inclusive approach** to Arctic diplomacy, ensuring the perspectives of Indigenous and local communities are central.

This policy builds on Canada's 2019 Arctic and Northern Policy Framework to ensure a secure, prosperous Arctic with local and Indigenous voices at the forefront. I was honoured to be part of some of the conversations that made this possible, and to emphasize just how critical this policy is for our region. I am proud to see the AFP come to life and I look forward to supporting the continued development of this policy, ensuring that Yukoners have a strong voice in shaping the future of the Arctic and that their perspectives remain central in its implementation.

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### **Minister Blair and Premier Pillai sign a letter of intent to establish a Reserve presence in Whitehorse, Yukon**

To kick off Yukon Days, I was happy to join Minister Blair and Premier Pillai in the signing a letter of intent to establish a Reserve presence in Whitehorse.

This significant step towards establishing a Naval Reserve presence in Whitehorse not only enhances Canada's Arctic security but also fosters community engagement and support skill development in the North. This initiative will provide valuable opportunities for local residents to gain new skills and contribute to the security and resilience of our Arctic region. By strengthening our presence in the North, we are ensuring that our communities are better equipped to face future challenges and continue to thrive.

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### Funding to support Indigenous-led projects in the Yukon

I was proud to connect with the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council and learn about how they are using the over \$800,000 in federal funding - including to create a community hub for families of missing and murdered Indigenous people in the Yukon and throughout the North.

They have a dedicated team focused on supporting Yukoners, and we are fortunate to have them in our territory.

This year, they also celebrated 50 years of advocacy and service—congratulations to them!

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### Government of Canada unlocks federal properties for housing in the Yukon

Minister **Jean-Yves Duclos** announced 12 new properties to the Canada Public Land Bank and added Whitehorse to its ambitious housing plan. 419-421 Range Road is one of the 12 new sites to be considered for development for affordable housing across the country. This has been a long-time request from the City of Whitehorse, and I am pleased to see the Yukon's calls heard to address the housing crisis. Next steps will be to receive input from Yukoners and stakeholders to inform the future development of these properties.

The Canada Public Land Bank is part of the federal government's work to turn unused and underused federal properties into 250,000 new homes.

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### Canada and Yukon announce funding to address Arctic security



Just before Yukon Days on behalf of Minister Vandal, I was proud to announce a \$370,000 investment to explore the feasibility of establishing an Arctic and Northern Security Centre in the Yukon. This study will bring together local and national stakeholders to address challenges, enhance innovation, and create new opportunities for infrastructure and Indigenous economic development in the North.

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### **The government of Canada makes important investments in the Alaska Highway**

This month the federal government announced two contracts to maintain the important infrastructure, the a Highway. These contracts will cover the km 133-589 and 589-968 sections and create meaningful work and economic opportunities for our communities, and will improve this important infrastructure.

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**Liard First Nation Celebrates Opening Elders Housing Complex in Watson Lake: Strengthening Community Connections**

I am thrilled to share two incredible milestones in Watson Lake!

The grand opening of the Elders Housing Complex took place this month. This 9-unit facility and will provide secure, independent living for Elders. With \$9 million from Indigenous Services Canada and \$810,000 from the Yukon Housing Corporation, this project exemplifies the power of collaboration between federal, territorial, and Indigenous governments.

But that's not all—Heartland Timber Homes also announced the completion of its first 15 homes, marking a significant step in addressing the housing crisis, and toward self-sufficiency and growth for the Liard First Nation. With over 50 local jobs created and a focus on sustainability, these homes are about much more than just bricks and mortar—they represent a brighter, more prosperous future for our people.

Exciting times are ahead!

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### **Supporting the growing Indigenous tourism sector**

Celebrating culture and creating opportunities. While folks were in Ottawa for Yukon Days, Minister Ferrada, Minister Streicker, Chief Smith, and NACCA representatives helped to announce funding. A \$755,000 investment from the Indigenous Tourism Fund is helping Kwanlin Dün First Nation expand Sky High Wilderness Ranch, offering authentic experiences like dogsledding, horseback riding, and aurora viewing—all while preserving and sharing their culture.

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### Federal government invests in Dawson City and Watson Lake buildings

I'm pleased to announce with Minister Richard Mostyn over \$4.1 million in funding to support the planning and design of a new recreation centre in Dawson City and vital upgrades to air ventilation systems in three municipal buildings in Watson Lake. The new centre in Dawson City will offer a variety of year-round fitness and activity spaces, including an NHL-sized rink and curling rinks, while the upgrades in Watson Lake will improve energy efficiency and air quality. Both improvements will greatly support the overall health, happiness, and vitality of the community.

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Ross River Dena Council, the Government of Yukon, and Parks Canada sign a Memorandum of Understanding to assess the feasibility of establishing a new protected area in the Yukon.

The Chief, Councillors, and Members of the Ross River Dena Council, along with the Premier of the Yukon and Minister Guilbeault, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to explore the creation of a co-managed protected area in east-central Yukon.

This significant step forward aims to preserve the incredible ecosystems and wildlife that inhabit this land, as well as the deep cultural and spiritual connection the Kaska Dena people have with it. This agreement symbolizes a strong commitment to



safeguarding a place we all cherish for future generations. The Yukon's natural beauty and heritage are treasures to be protected, and this agreement brings us closer to ensuring these lands remain respected and preserved for years to come.

I was also proud to have everyone in the room together to make this possible. This is one of three Environmental protection announcements I was able to make this year – another fact I am extremely proud of

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## Federal government transfers \$9 million through the Canada Community-Building Fund to Yukon

The Canada Community-Building Fund has supported many infrastructure projects over the years, including upgrades to water services and storm sewers in Whitehorse, the renovation of the Old Crow Ski Lodge, and the construction of the Skookies Culture Camp near Carcross.

This support will allow for more infrastructure projects to enable essential infrastructure projects and future housing developments, helping to build stronger, more resilient, and affordable communities.

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## Canada and Yukon support affordable housing in Whitehorse



On behalf of Minister Sean Fraser, I announced the launch of Project 1096 with the Northern Community Land Trust in the Whistle Bend neighbourhood. This project will build 32 affordable homes to local families. This innovative development will provide homes at more than 30% below market value, making homeownership accessible to low- to medium-income families and allowing them to build equity. With support from the federal and territorial governments, this project is a groundbreaking step forward in affordable housing for Yukoners as part of the National Housing Strategy.

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## Youth Mental Health Fund: Call for proposals 2024

The [Youth Mental Health Fund \(YMHF\)](#), announced by the federal government in [Budget 2024](#), aims to improve the mental health of youth and their families, and to enhance access to, and navigation of, mental health services with a particular focus on equity-deserving groups.

[The fund](#) would contribute to long-term improvements in mental health outcomes for youth and to advance the creation of a strengthened, integrated and accessible youth mental health system that addresses the needs of equity-deserving and underserved youth populations.

Applications Opened November 18, 2024, and will close on January 22, 2025.

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[Northern Contaminants Program](#) is now accepting funding proposals for the Northern Contaminants Program for projects addressing long-range contaminants and plastic pollution across the North and Arctic. Apply by January 20, 2025! In a new paragraph block.



Are you a student aged 16 to 19 and enrolled in secondary or post-secondary school?

Through the [School Health Grant for Youth](#), you can apply for micro-grants of up to \$1,000 to support initiatives that encourage and promote healthy living in your school. Projects must support and empower youth to make healthy choices and live in healthier ways.

The four priority areas are:

**Positive mental health and well-being:** Host a learning event aiming to inform participants on essential skills to manage their emotions, build resilience, and maintain positive mental health.

**Healthy eating and nutrition:** Arrange for a registered dietitian to speak at a school assembly about using Canada's Food Guide to support healthy eating.

**Physical activity:** Host an inclusive wellness week with daily physical activities highlighting different, accessible ways to be active throughout the day.

**Reducing substance-related harms:** Organize a workshop on preventing and reducing substance-related harms, focused on reducing stigma and holding non-judgemental conversations.

**The deadline to submit projects is December 20th, 2024, at 11:59 AM Eastern Standard Time.**

## Connecting in Community



Holiday Smile Cookie



Filipino Concert with JayR and Mica



Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council



Midnight Moose Market



ANTO Yukon

Bliss Brewtique

Kit's Kitchen

Mamayo's Cuisine



DH Shoppe



Tagish Rocks

The Spruce Box



Special Olympics  
Yukon Curling Event



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

YOUR VOICE WILL IMPACT THE PRIORITIES WE SET IN OTTAWA.

You can fill out this Google Form for free.

Which issues are most important to you?



## Brendan Hanley

Member of Parliament / Député de Yukon



This Message has been approved by MP Brendan Hanley  
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