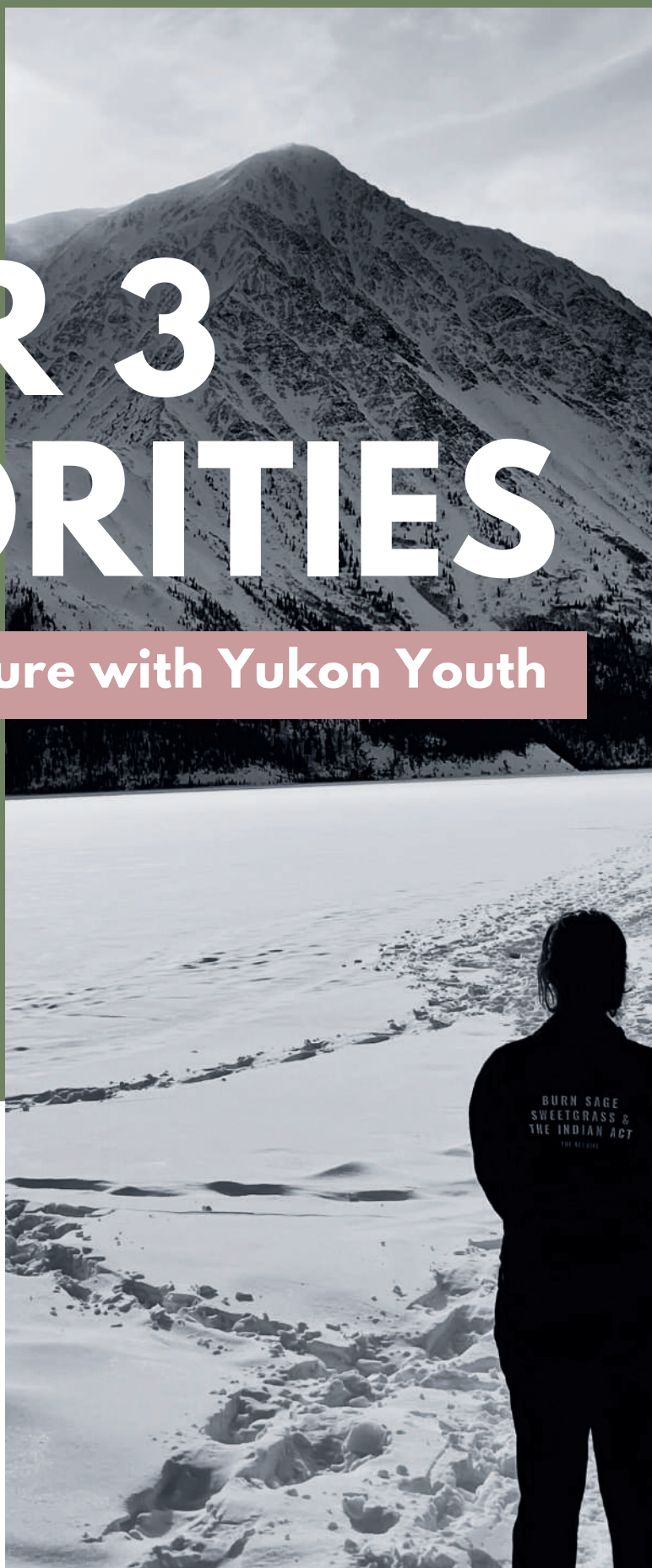


YEAR 3 PRIORITIES

Shaping the Future with Yukon Youth

2025/2026



TERRITORIAL YOUTH COLLECTIVE

Shaping the Future with Yukon Youth

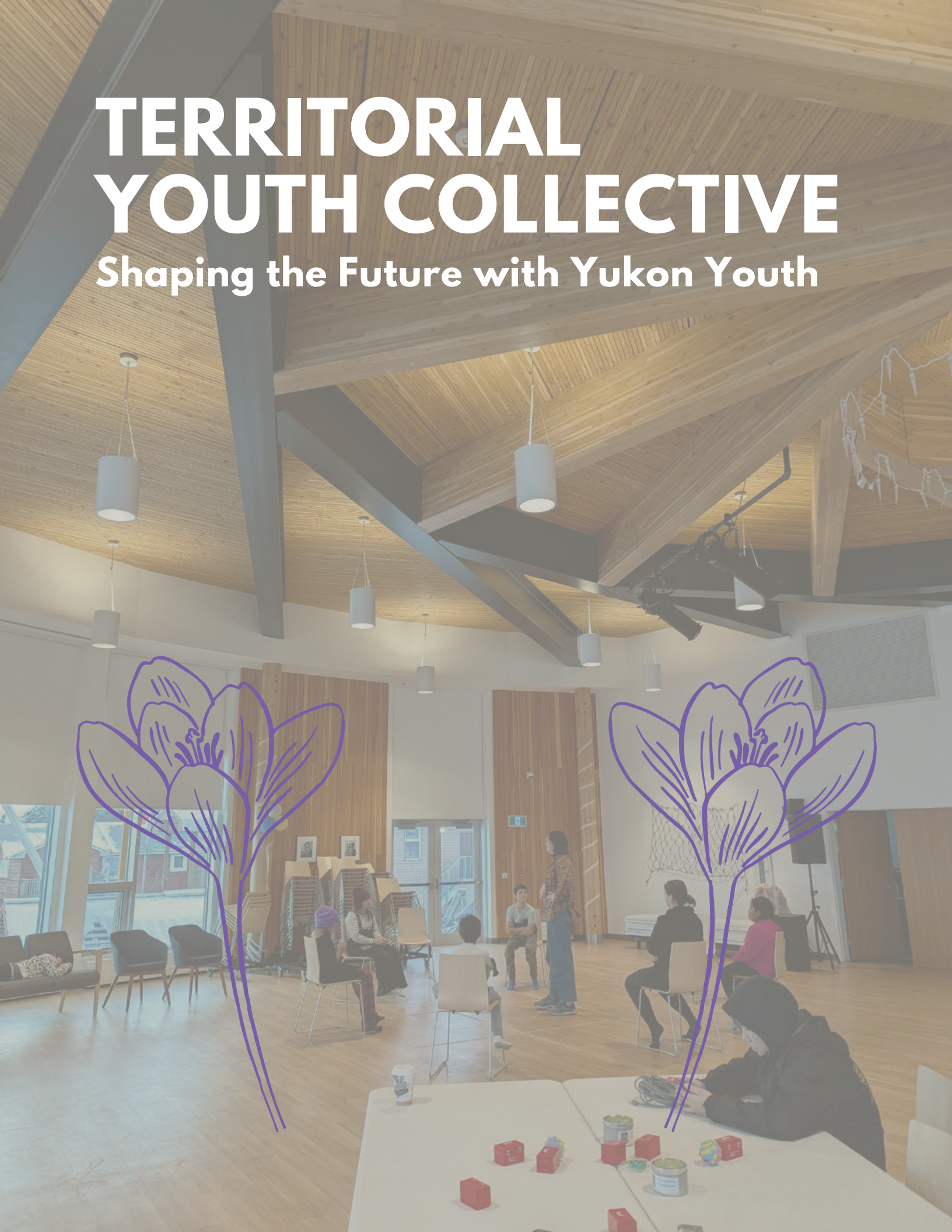


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MEET THE BACKBONE TEAM



Erin Cartan

Youth Collective Director

Erin (she/her) has worked in the youth field in outdoor education, programming, and project management and is passionate about creating systemic change for youth now and for generations to come. She is originally from Timmins, Ontario and has been in the Yukon for over two years working with youth and the community. In the Youth Collective Director position she works to coordinate the Territorial Youth Collective and oversee the collaborations and projects within this group including the Territorial Youth Strategy.



Aliya Grant

Collective Outreach Coordinator

Aliya Grant (she/her) is a member of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, a part of the Ishkahittaan clan. Growing up in the Yukon Aliya has done Volunteer work, helping co-create an alternative school program for youth in her community and more. She is the Collective Outreach Coordinator at BYTE-Empowering Youth Society, facilitating workshops, helping implement the Territorial Youth Strategy, uplift youth voices, and making connections to the Yukon communities to uplift youth.

WHAT IS THIS DOCUMENT?

This document outlines priorities identified for Year 3; 2025/2026. The list of identified priorities below was composed of quantitative and qualitative data collected throughout the year through sessions in multiple communities and the Territorial Youth Strategy (TYS) Accountability Forum. The Territorial Youth Collective wanted to provide one of the most impactful guiding documents for uplifting needs and priorities for youth.

We understand how important using qualitative data is in empowering youth voices. We have used quantitative data with this to try and best represent the Territory's youth voice. The following priorities were decided by analyzing the progress trackers, partner tracking, and notes from the sessions in the communities.



THE CALLS TO ACTION PRIORITIES

The Priorities are meant to help guide our youth-serving organizations, Yukon First Nations, Government, and other leaders. The yearly priorities highlight specific calls to action that youth have stated are the most important right now and need more focus over the next year. This does not mean that work is not being done on the rest of the calls to action. This is meant to help partners focus their efforts this upcoming year.

The Territorial Youth Collective created this document to help uplift youth voice, guide funding, advocate for youth issues, bring light to systemic issues, and break down silos in youth serving fields.

The Collective is always evolving, growing, and advocating. We are dedicated to put out a list of annual priorities to help guide our community in areas Yukon Youth are seeing systemic issues in.



1. Basic Needs

1.1 Housing Security

Increase access to affordable, supportive, and safe housing options for everyone, especially young people, families, and people experiencing homelessness or precarious housing. In Canada, housing is considered “affordable” if it costs less than 30% of a household’s before-tax income. Connect youth and youth housing needs within the Housing First system.

1.2 Transportation

Provide young people with safe, reliable, and accessible transportation options, especially between remote communities. Reinststate a regular system of transportation between remote communities (i.e. “the old Greyhound system”). Allocate funding for youth programs to offer transportation options for getting young people to and from programs. Prioritize working within Yukon and with Canada to find a sustainable public transportation system.

1.4 Healthcare

Increase staffing capacity in the healthcare system, especially Licensed Practical Nurses, to reduce wait times and reliance on larger cities. Maintain access to universal health care. Increase access to menstrual products and supports for all who menstruate, especially queer and transitioning folks.

2. Community Safety & Harm Reduction

2.4 Funding for Treatment Centers & Intervention Supports

Increase local Yukon-based treatment centres and intervention support. Focus on implementing family-based treatment and aftercare programs. Prioritize restorative justice processes and extra-judicial sanctions opportunities (over punitive approaches). For example, connecting Elders to youth in the justice system.

2.5 Harm Reduction Supports

Increase harm reduction supports for youth including culturally driven options, safer partying programming, more opportunities for naloxone training, drug testing opportunities, and a safe consumption site option for youth under the age of 19. Increase awareness of these community resources for young people. This is particularly important for young people involved in the criminal justice system and those living in remote communities. Increase spaces where youth can have safe, honest, and open conversations about harm reduction and substance use.



3. Mental Wellness & Connections

3.2 Interest Based Activities & Recreation

Increase the number of interest-based activities for young people to explore, including art-based (music, traditional crafts, visual art, dance, multimedia), sport-based (swimming facilities, Dene games, Arctic sports, organized team sports), and other recreation-based activities (hiking, camping, biking, fishing, hunting, and other on the land activities). Increase access to activities by addressing barriers such as financial, physical, and transportation barriers. Create space for youth to share what they want in programming and follow up on their interests.

3.6 Healthy Mentors & Positive Role Models

Engage positive role models to be more involved in young peoples' lives, particularly those that represent underserved demographics such as First Nations, female, queer, and gender-diverse role models. Involve more healthy male mentors in the lives of young men and boys. Develop programming based on positive relationship building between youth and staff, and youth to youth. Have more spaces where youth can actively engage on their own, at their own level, with cultural support workers, and learn from Elders. Increase training opportunities for mentors.

3.7 Mental Health Resources for Remote Communities

Building the capacity of mental health services (i.e., clinical counsellors) and cultural supports in the communities to reduce dependence on Whitehorse-based services. Promote and support the resources already in the community first before bringing others in.

3.8 Intergenerational Connections

Provide more opportunities where all young people can connect with Elders, knowledge holders, and other role models through engaging in activities and programs together. Focus on keeping First Nations languages alive. Hold space for interactive experiences between generations to make it meaningful and allow space for older generations to listen to youth's priorities.



4. Access to Learning & Education

4.4 Alternative Education

Increase the number of alternative education pathways such as the Individual Learning Centre, Aurora Virtual School, the Indigenous Academy at F.H. Collins, Teen Parent Centre, the Wild School, Wood Street Centre etc. Increase the accessibility and capacity of these crucial programs. Ensure equitable access of land-based, experiential, and traditional knowledge for all students to meet the diversity of learning needs. Redefine class structure and time schedules in secondary schools to promote use of traditional teaching and new curriculum opportunities.

4.6 Development of Essential Skills

Create more curricular and extracurricular opportunities which explore essential “life skills”. Specifically: finances (budgeting and taxes), food (growing food, grocery shopping, cooking), navigating systems (healthcare, purchasing or renting homes, awareness of community resources), driving skills, communication skills, and social and emotional learning.



5. Employment & Career Opportunities

5.2 Work-Study Opportunities

Increase the number of work-study and co-op program opportunities for young people to gain skills and employment experience while receiving academic credit, especially for students in grade 11 and 12. Partner with Yukon University to create more Community Engaged Learning/Experiential Learning opportunities for students to synthesize theory and practice, gain work experience, and support local community organizations.

5.4 Youth Employment in Remote Communities

Increase the number of training and employment opportunities for young people in remote communities in order to increase the labour capacity of remote communities. Invest in diverse local businesses that create employment opportunities for young people. Increase mentorship and access to entrepreneurial opportunities and training.



6. Land & Stewardship

6.1 Land Based Programming & Healing

Invest in more land-based infrastructure and programming opportunities through the form of culture camps, community gatherings, sweat lodges, hunting trips, etc. Increase access for youth to explore their culture and self through fire keeper training and mentorship and more informal gatherings and hosting fires.





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