

# Yukon Youth Calls To Action: 2022 Youth Summit

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## **Calls to Action**

The following Calls to Action were identified as key areas of concern by young people at this year's Yukon Youth Summit. The majority of these concerns are not new, and reinforce what young people have been calling for in recent years. It is important to note that many of the youth participants who joined the Summit were 15 and older. As such, these Calls to Action may only represent some of the needs of youth aged 15+. Immediate Calls to Action include those that can be implemented by April 2023, and Long Term Calls to Action include those that require sustained action for the years to come.

## **Executive Summary**

1. Increase access to mental wellness supports for young people both in and outside of school
2. Increase accessibility of safe spaces for young people that have positive role models and fun and engaging activities
3. Increase focus on Indigenous knowledge, life skills, outdoor education, and hands-on learning opportunities
4. Strengthen communication with young people about services and opportunities available to them, particularly informal opportunities to share their voice
5. Strengthen relationships and partnerships across sectors to support a greater Territorial Youth Strategy where "all Yukon youth feel a sense of belonging"

## **Immediate Calls to Action**

### Immediate Calls To Action for All Levels of Government (First Nation, Municipal, Territorial, Federal)

1. Increase accessibility of safe spaces for young people. This call to action must include:
  - a. Increasing the number of drop-in programs after school where youth can hang and do activities, especially in the Yukon communities
  - b. Providing funding to existing youth programs to build sustainability
  - c. Providing youth with safe, reliable and accessible transportation to and from safe spaces
  - d. Increasing the number of 24/7 safe spaces available in the Yukon, especially in the communities
2. Increase access to mental wellness support for young people both in and outside of school. This call to action must include:
  - a. Increasing the number of safe spaces available to youth, specifically those who are marginalized, and improving accessibility to safe spaces



3. Increase opportunities to connect with elders and learn traditional knowledge. This must include:
  - a. Increasing On The Land programming opportunities through the form of culture camps and community gatherings
  - b. Deeply integrating Indigenous knowledge and history into all parts of programming. This must also include deeper discussions surrounding experiences of systemic oppression and marginalization experienced by Indigenous peoples, as well as conversations celebrating Indigenous cultures, traditional knowledge, and resilience
4. Strengthen communication with young people about services, resources and opportunities available to them in both their local community and the Yukon at large. This recommendation must include:
  - a. Building a virtual platform where youth can learn about and navigate the services and opportunities available to them (the leading example is the Youth Network Hub created by Youth of Today Society and Communities Building Youth Futures Yukon)
  - b. Going to youth where they are at (i.e., in school, clubs, youth organizations) to discuss available resources, services and opportunities
  - c. Building awareness about existing opportunities, services, and resources among folks present in young people's networks (i.e., their families, friends, teachers)
  - d. Developing frequent engaging opportunities (i.e., youth crawl, service fairs) through which young people can learn about existing services, organizations and opportunities, and become familiar with what is available
5. Increase opportunities for young people to engage with leadership, strengthen a sense of community, and share their voices and perspectives both informally and formally
  - a. Providing bi-weekly or monthly informal gatherings (i.e., over food, games, and/or fire) for youth, community leaders, and community members to connect and engage in discussions surrounding young people's concerns
  - b. Providing opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles and create change outside of youth panels and councils. This may include creating opportunities where youth can take on leadership roles and express their concerns through creative outlets such as art or music.
  - c. Increasing accessibility of youth panels, committees and councils so that all youth can participate regardless of their skill level, backgrounds and experiences.
  - d. Increasing the number of political education opportunities for young people so that they can better advocate for their needs and create systems change.



6. Increase the number and type of fun and engaging activities for youth within Whitehorse and the communities. This must include:
  - a. Increasing the number of On The Land activities for young people
  - b. Increasing the number of art-based (music, visual art, dance, multimedia) and recreation-based activities for young people (i.e., swimming facilities, Dene games, Arctic sports, organised sports)
  - c. Providing a low-barrier, 24/7 space where young people can “hangout” and connect with each other
  - d. Investing resources into promotion and awareness of existing clubs and opportunities to increase participation
7. Strengthen working relationships and partnerships across sectors to create a network of supports that enable young people to thrive.
  - a. Increasing collaboration between youth-serving organizations, youth groups, businesses, leaders, and all levels of government.
  - b. Continuing to fund and support existing projects and organizations to build long-term sustainability

Immediate Calls To Action for Yukon’s Department of Education (EDU) and Yukon First Nation Education Directorate (YFNED)

1. Increase accessibility of safe spaces for young people. This call to action must include:
  - a. Increasing the number of drop-in programs after school where youth can hang and do activities, especially in the Yukon communities
  - b. Providing funding to existing youth programs to build sustainability
  - c. Creating safe spaces in and outside of school specifically for youth with marginalized identities (i.e., Black, Indigenous and other racialized youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ youth)
  - d. Increasing the number of indoor and outdoor “hangout” spaces in schools for students to relax and connect during recess, as well as during classes when they need a break
  - e. Ensuring all safe spaces offer free food, a relaxing and comfortable environment, and role models that youth trust
  - f. Providing competency training for all school staff to strengthen their capacity to engage with youth, especially those with marginalized identities, in an age-appropriate, trauma-informed and sensitive manner
2. Update the implementation of curriculum to one that reflects young people’s interests and needs for the future. This call to action must include:
  - a. Deeply integrating Indigenous knowledge and history into all parts of the curriculum. This must also include deeper discussions surrounding experiences of systemic oppression and marginalization experienced by



- Indigenous peoples, as well as conversations that celebrate Indigenous cultures, traditional knowledge, and resilience
- b. Increasing the number of and access to outdoor or hands-on teaching methods into the curriculum
  - c. Providing compulsory financial literacy and life skills development courses to students which explore topics such as taxes, grocery shopping, cooking, purchasing or renting homes, and communication skills
  - d. Expanding sexual health education in schools, including increasing the frequency of discussions, introducing conversations at an earlier age, ensuring conversations are age-appropriate, and tailoring discussions to individual needs
  - e. Discussing consent within the context of all healthy relationships, not just sexual relationships
  - f. Actively connecting students with community resources to increase awareness on the types of services available to young people
  - g. Increasing conversations about climate change and education surrounding sustainability, climate change resilience, and mitigation into the curriculum
3. Increase access to mental wellness support for young people both in and outside of school. This call to action must include:
    - a. Allowing students to step away from class for a mental wellness break without penalization or discouragement from school staff
    - b. Increasing the number of safe spaces available to youth, specifically those who are marginalized, and improving accessibility to safe spaces
    - c. Providing check in times during class for students to share their feelings and normalize mental wellness and health conversations
  4. Increase opportunities to connect with elders and learn traditional knowledge. This must include:
    - a. Increasing On The Land programming opportunities through the form of culture camps and community gatherings
  5. Strengthen communication with young people about services, resources and opportunities available to them in both their local community and the Yukon at large. This recommendation must include:
    - a. Building a virtual platform where youth can learn about and navigate the services and opportunities available to them (the leading example is the Youth Network Hub created by Youth of Today Society and Communities Building Youth Futures Yukon)
    - b. Going to youth where they are at (i.e., in school, clubs, youth organizations) to discuss available resources, services and opportunities

- c. Building awareness about existing opportunities, services, and resources among folks present in young people's networks (i.e., their families, friends, teachers)
  - d. Developing frequent engaging opportunities (i.e., youth crawl, service fairs) through which young people can learn about existing services, organizations and opportunities, and become familiar with what is available
6. Increase opportunities for young people to engage with leadership, strengthen a sense of community, and share their voices and perspectives both informally and formally
- a. Increasing the number of clubs and opportunities in schools that are tailored to the needs and interests of the student body (i.e., social justice clubs or gender and sexuality alliance clubs).
  - b. Investing resources into the promotion and awareness of these clubs and opportunities to increase participation
  - c. Providing opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles and create change outside of youth panels and councils. This may include creating opportunities where youth can take on leadership roles and express their concerns through creative outlets such as art or music.
  - d. Increasing accessibility of youth panels, committees and councils so that all youth can participate regardless of their skill level, backgrounds and experiences.
  - e. Increasing the number of political education opportunities for young people so that they can better advocate for their needs and create systems change.
7. Strengthen working relationships and partnerships across sectors to create a network of supports that enable young people to thrive.
- a. Increasing collaboration between youth-serving organizations, youth groups, businesses, leaders, and all levels of government.
  - b. Continuing to fund and support existing projects and organizations to build long-term sustainability

### Immediate Calls To Action for Youth-serving Organizations

1. Increase accessibility of safe spaces for young people. This call to action must include:
- a. Increasing the number of drop-in programs after school where youth can hang and do activities, especially in the Yukon communities
  - b. Creating safe spaces in and outside of school specifically for youth with marginalized identities (i.e., Black, Indigenous and other racialized youth, 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth)
  - c. Ensuring all safe spaces offer free food, a relaxing and comfortable environment, and role models that youth trust



- d. Providing youth with safe, reliable and accessible transportation to and from safe spaces
  - e. Increasing the number of 24/7 safe spaces available in the Yukon, especially in the communities
2. Update the implementation of youth programming to one that reflects young people's interests and needs for the future. This call to action must include:
  - a. Deeply integrating Indigenous knowledge and history into all parts of youth programming. This must also include deeper discussions surrounding experiences of systemic oppression and marginalization experienced by Indigenous peoples, as well as conversations that celebrate Indigenous cultures, traditional knowledge, and resilience
  - b. Increasing the number of and access to outdoor or hands-on teaching methods into programming
  - c. Providing compulsory financial literacy and life skills development courses to students which explore topics such as taxes, grocery shopping, cooking, purchasing or renting homes, and communication skills
  - d. Discussing consent within the context of all healthy relationships, not just sexual relationships
  - e. Actively connecting students with community resources to increase awareness on the types of services available to young people
  - f. Increasing conversations about climate change and education surrounding sustainability, climate change resilience, and mitigation into programming
3. Increase access to mental wellness support for young people both in and outside of school. This call to action must include:
  - a. Increasing the number of safe spaces available to youth, specifically those who are marginalized, and improving accessibility to safe spaces
  - b. Providing check in times during and outside of class for students to share their feelings and normalize mental wellness and health conversations
4. Increase opportunities to connect with elders and learn traditional knowledge. This must include:
  - a. Increasing On The Land programming opportunities through the form of culture camps and community gatherings
  - b. Deeply integrating Indigenous knowledge and history into all parts of programming. This must also include deeper discussions surrounding experiences of systemic oppression and marginalization experienced by Indigenous peoples, as well as conversations celebrating Indigenous cultures, traditional knowledge, and resilience
5. Strengthen communication with young people about services, resources and opportunities available to them in both their local community and the Yukon at large. This recommendation must include:



- a. Building a virtual platform where youth can learn about and navigate the services and opportunities available to them (the leading example is the Youth Network Hub created by Youth of Today Society and Communities Building Youth Futures Yukon)
  - b. Going to youth where they are at (i.e., in school, clubs, youth organizations) to discuss available resources, services and opportunities
  - c. Building awareness about existing opportunities, services, and resources among folks present in young people’s networks (i.e., their families, friends, teachers)
  - d. Developing frequent engaging opportunities (i.e., youth crawl, service fairs) through which young people can learn about existing services, organizations and opportunities, and become familiar with what is available
6. Increase opportunities for young people to engage with leadership, strengthen a sense of community, and share their voices and perspectives both informally and formally
- a. Providing bi-weekly or monthly informal gatherings (i.e., over food, games, and/or fire) for youth, community leaders, and community members to connect and engage in discussions surrounding young people’s concerns
  - b. Providing opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles and create change outside of youth panels and councils. This may include creating opportunities where youth can take on leadership roles and express their concerns through creative outlets such as art or music.
  - c. Increasing accessibility of youth panels, committees and councils so that all youth can participate regardless of their skill level, backgrounds and experiences.
  - d. Increasing the number of political education opportunities for young people so that they can better advocate for their needs and create systems change.
7. Increase the number and type of fun and engaging activities for youth within Whitehorse and the communities. This must include:
- a. Increasing the number of On The Land activities for young people
  - b. Increasing the number of art-based (music, visual art, dance, multimedia) and recreation-based activities for young people (i.e., swimming facilities, Dene games, Arctic sports, organized sports)
  - c. Providing a low-barrier, 24/7 space where young people can “hangout” and connect with each other
  - d. Investing resources into promotion and awareness of existing clubs and opportunities to increase participation
8. Strengthen working relationships and partnerships across sectors to create a network of supports that enable young people to thrive.



- a. Increasing collaboration between youth-serving organizations, youth groups, businesses, leaders, and all levels of government.
- b. Continuing to fund and support existing projects and organizations to build long-term sustainability

### Immediate Calls To Action for Youth

1. Increase accessibility of safe spaces for young people. This call to action must include:
  - a. Creating safe spaces in and outside of school specifically for youth with marginalized identities (i.e., Black, Indigenous and other racialized youth, 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth)
  - b. Ensuring all safe spaces offer free food, a relaxing and comfortable environment, and role models that youth trust
2. Update the implementation of curriculum and youth programming to one that reflects young people's interests and needs for the future. This call to action must include:
  - a. Deeply integrating Indigenous knowledge and history into all parts of the curriculum. This must also include deeper discussions surrounding experiences of systemic oppression and marginalization experienced by Indigenous peoples, as well as conversations that celebrate Indigenous cultures, traditional knowledge, and resilience
  - b. Discussing consent within the context of all healthy relationships, not just sexual relationships
  - c. Increasing conversations about climate change and education surrounding sustainability, climate change resilience, and mitigation into the curriculum
3. Increase opportunities for young people to engage with leadership, strengthen a sense of community, and share their voices and perspectives both informally and formally
  - a. Increasing the number of clubs and opportunities in schools that are tailored to the needs and interests of the student body (i.e., social justice clubs or gender and sexuality alliance clubs).
  - b. Investing resources into the promotion and awareness of these clubs and opportunities to increase participation
4. Strengthen working relationships and partnerships across sectors to create a network of supports that enable young people to thrive.
  - a. Increasing collaboration between youth-serving organizations, youth groups, businesses, leaders, and all levels of government.
  - b. Continuing to fund and support existing projects and organizations to build long-term sustainability



### Immediate Calls To Action for Everyone (full list)

1. Increase accessibility of safe spaces for young people. This call to action must include:
  - a. Increasing the number of drop-in programs after school where youth can hang and do activities, especially in the Yukon communities
  - b. Providing funding to existing youth programs to build sustainability
  - c. Creating safe spaces in and outside of school specifically for youth with marginalized identities (i.e., Black, Indigenous and other racialized youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ youth)
  - d. Increasing the number of indoor and outdoor “hangout” spaces in schools for students to relax and connect during recess, as well as during classes when they need a break
  - e. Ensuring all safe spaces offer free food, a relaxing and comfortable environment, and role models that youth trust
  - f. Providing competency training for all school staff to strengthen their capacity to engage with youth, especially those with marginalized identities, in an age-appropriate, trauma-informed and sensitive manner
  - g. Providing youth with safe, reliable and accessible transportation to and from safe spaces
  - h. Increasing the number of 24/7 safe spaces available in the Yukon, especially in the communities
  
2. Update the implementation of curriculum and youth programming to one that reflects young people’s interests and needs for the future. This call to action must include:
  - a. Deeply integrating Indigenous knowledge and history into all parts of the curriculum. This must also include deeper discussions surrounding experiences of systemic oppression and marginalization experienced by Indigenous peoples, as well as conversations that celebrate Indigenous cultures, traditional knowledge, and resilience
  - b. Increasing the number of and access to outdoor or hands-on teaching methods into the curriculum
  - c. Providing compulsory financial literacy and life skills development courses to students which explore topics such as taxes, grocery shopping, cooking, purchasing or renting homes, and communication skills
  - d. Expanding sexual health education in schools, including increasing the frequency of discussions, introducing conversations at an earlier age, ensuring conversations are age-appropriate, and tailoring discussions to individual needs
  - e. Discussing consent within the context of all healthy relationships, not just sexual relationships



- f. Actively connecting students with community resources to increase awareness on the types of services available to young people
  - g. Increasing conversations about climate change and education surrounding sustainability, climate change resilience, and mitigation into the curriculum
3. Increase access to mental wellness support for young people both in and outside of school. This call to action must include:
    - a. Allowing students to step away from class for a mental wellness break without penalization or discouragement from school staff
    - b. Increasing the number of safe spaces available to youth, specifically those who are marginalized, and improving accessibility to safe spaces
    - c. Providing check in times during class for students to share their feelings and normalize mental wellness and health conversations
  4. Increase opportunities to connect with elders and learn traditional knowledge. This must include:
    - a. Increasing On The Land programming opportunities through the form of culture camps and community gatherings
    - b. Deeply integrating Indigenous knowledge and history into all parts of programming. This must also include deeper discussions surrounding experiences of systemic oppression and marginalization experienced by Indigenous peoples, as well as conversations celebrating Indigenous cultures, traditional knowledge, and resilience
  5. Strengthen communication with young people about services, resources and opportunities available to them in both their local community and the Yukon at large. This recommendation must include:
    - a. Building a virtual platform where youth can learn about and navigate the services and opportunities available to them (the leading example is the Youth Network Hub created by Youth of Today Society and Communities Building Youth Futures Yukon)
    - b. Going to youth where they are at (i.e., in school, clubs, youth organizations) to discuss available resources, services and opportunities
    - c. Building awareness about existing opportunities, services, and resources among folks present in young people's networks (i.e., their families, friends, teachers)
    - d. Developing frequent engaging opportunities (i.e., youth crawl, service fairs) through which young people can learn about existing services, organizations and opportunities, and become familiar with what is available
  6. Increase opportunities for young people to engage with leadership, strengthen a sense of community, and share their voices and perspectives both informally and formally

- a. Providing bi-weekly or monthly informal gatherings (i.e., over food, games, and/or fire) for youth, community leaders, and community members to connect and engage in discussions surrounding young people’s concerns
  - b. Increasing the number of clubs and opportunities in schools that are tailored to the needs and interests of the student body (i.e., social justice clubs or gender and sexuality alliance clubs).
  - c. Investing resources into the promotion and awareness of these clubs and opportunities to increase participation
  - d. Providing opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles and create change outside of youth panels and councils. This may include creating opportunities where youth can take on leadership roles and express their concerns through creative outlets such as art or music.
  - e. Increasing accessibility of youth panels, committees and councils so that all youth can participate regardless of their skill level, backgrounds and experiences.
  - f. Increasing the number of political education opportunities for young people so that they can better advocate for their needs and create systems change.
7. Increase the number and type of fun and engaging activities for youth within Whitehorse and the communities. This must include:
- a. Increasing the number of On The Land activities for young people
  - b. Increasing the number of art-based (music, visual art, dance, multimedia) and recreation-based activities for young people (i.e., swimming facilities, Dene games, Arctic sports, organized sports)
  - c. Providing a low-barrier, 24/7 space where young people can “hangout” and connect with each other
  - d. Investing resources into promotion and awareness of existing clubs and opportunities to increase participation
8. Strengthen working relationships and partnerships across sectors to create a network of supports that enable young people to thrive.
- a. Increasing collaboration between youth-serving organizations, youth groups, businesses, leaders, and all levels of government.
  - b. Continuing to fund and support existing projects and organizations to build long-term sustainability

### **Long Term Strategic Calls To Action**

#### Long Term Strategic Calls To Action for All Levels of Government (First Nation, Municipal, Territorial, Federal)

1. Increase accessibility of safe spaces for young people, including increasing the number of safe spaces currently available. This call to action must include:



- a. Maintaining a higher number of safe spaces available in the Yukon communities
2. Invest in long-term mental wellness support for young people both in and outside of school. This call to action must include:
  - a. Establishing harm reduction supports for youth below the age of 19 (i.e., safe consumption sites)
  - b. Establishing a barrier free, 24 hr shelter/service as well as supportive housing options for youth, especially for those who engage in substance use
  - c. Building the capacity of mental health services (i.e., clinical counsellors) in the communities to reduce dependence on Whitehorse-based services
3. Provide funding for fun and engaging activities for youth within Whitehorse and the communities. This must include:
  - a. Funding for various activities and programming including On The Land programming, arts-based activities, recreation-based activities, and other activities for young people
4. Increase funding for programming that focuses on youth building positive relationships with role models that they trust. This must include:
  - a. Increasing funding for youth Drop-In spaces with trained and supportive staff, youth mentorship programs, and programs which connect elders to youth
5. Increase opportunities for young people to engage with leadership, strengthen a sense of community, and share their voices and perspectives both informally and formally
  - a. Providing youth with meaningful positions (that do not tokenize young people) at all levels of government (Municipal, Territorial, Federal, First Nations) to ensure that youth-perspectives and concerns are represented and reflected across all government work
  - b. Ensuring that youth panels, councils, and committees go beyond the purpose of “checking a box for youth engagement”. This means making sure youth voices are meaningfully heard, acted upon in a way that does not tokenize youth, and included in a meaningful transparent accountability process
  - c. Continuing to provide opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles and create change outside of youth panels and councils. This may include creating opportunities where youth can take on leadership roles and express their concerns through creative outlets such as art or music.
  - d. Increasing the number of political education and literacy opportunities to young people so that they can better advocate for their needs and create systems change
  - e. Increasing the accessibility of youth panels, committees and councils so that all youth can participate regardless of their skill level, backgrounds and experiences.



- f. Building a culture that values youth voice and lived experiences, regardless of their professional or academic qualifications
  - g. Building a culture of transparency and honesty between community leaders and youth when youth request changes within their community
6. Commit to the long-term mission of the Territorial Youth Strategy where “all Yukon youth feel a sense of belonging”. This must include:
- a. Signing on to the final document of the Territorial Youth Strategy and committing to its implementation
  - b. Place value on working relationships and partnerships across sectors by increasing funding for partnerships that support young people to thrive
  - c. Continuing to fund and support existing youth-serving projects and organizations to build long-term sustainability

Long Term Strategic Calls To Action for Yukon’s Department of Education (EDU) and Yukon First Nation Education Directorate (YFNED)

1. Increase accessibility of safe spaces for young people, including increasing the number of safe spaces currently available. This call to action must include:
  - a. Maintaining a culture in schools that respects youth autonomy, dignity and mental health and wellness, especially when youth are feeling overwhelmed and need to step away from classes
2. Invest in long-term mental wellness support for young people both in and outside of school. This call to action must include:
  - a. Hiring counselors, educational assistants, teachers and school staff who represent an increasingly diversifying student body (i.e., to represent the needs of Black, Indigenous or racialized, 2SLGBTQQA+, younger students)
  - b. Offering clinical counseling in schools for all students, especially those who are unable to otherwise afford sessions
  - c. Increasing the number of counselors and educational assistants present in schools, and increasing access to EAs for all students
  - d. Building the capacity of mental health services (i.e., clinical counsellors) in the communities to reduce dependence on Whitehorse-based services
3. Increase opportunities for young people to engage with leadership, strengthen a sense of community, and share their voices and perspectives both informally and formally
  - a. Ensuring that youth panels, councils, and committees go beyond the purpose of “checking a box for youth engagement”. This means making sure youth voices are meaningfully heard, acted upon in a way that does not tokenize youth, and included in a meaningful transparent accountability process
  - b. Continuing to provide opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles and create change outside of youth panels and councils. This may include creating



- opportunities where youth can take on leadership roles and express their concerns through creative outlets such as art or music.
- c. Increasing the number of political education and literacy opportunities to young people so that they can better advocate for their needs and create systems change
  - d. Increasing the accessibility of youth panels, committees and councils so that all youth can participate regardless of their skill level, backgrounds and experiences.
4. Commit to the long-term mission of the Territorial Youth Strategy where “all Yukon youth feel a sense of belonging”. This must include:
    - a. Signing on to the final document of the Territorial Youth Strategy and committing to its implementation
    - b. Place value on working relationships and partnerships across sectors by increasing funding for partnerships that support young people to thrive
    - c. Continuing to fund and support existing youth-serving projects and organizations to build long-term sustainability

#### Long Term Strategic Calls To Action for Youth-serving Organizations

1. Increase accessibility of safe spaces for young people, including increasing the number of safe spaces currently available. This call to action must include:
  - a. Maintaining a higher number of safe spaces available in the Yukon communities
2. Invest in long-term mental wellness support for young people both in and outside of school. This call to action must include:
  - a. Increasing the number of counselors and educational assistants present in schools and/or youth programs
  - b. Establishing harm reduction supports for youth below the age of 19 (i.e., safe consumption sites)
  - c. Establishing a barrier free, 24 hr shelter/service as well as supportive housing options for youth, especially for those who engage in substance use
3. Provide funding for fun and engaging activities for youth within Whitehorse and the communities. This must include:
  - a. Funding for various activities and programming including On The Land programming, arts-based activities, recreation-based activities, and other activities for young people
4. Increase programming that focuses on youth building positive relationships with role models that they trust. This must include:
  - a. Increasing youth Drop-In spaces with trained and supportive staff, youth mentorship programs, and programs which connect elders to youth



5. Increase opportunities for young people to engage with leadership, strengthen a sense of community, and share their voices and perspectives both informally and formally
  - a. Ensuring that youth panels, councils, and committees go beyond the purpose of “checking a box for youth engagement”. This means making sure youth voices are meaningfully heard, acted upon in a way that does not tokenize youth, and included in a meaningful transparent accountability process
  - b. Continuing to provide opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles and create change outside of youth panels and councils. This may include creating opportunities where youth can take on leadership roles and express their concerns through creative outlets such as art or music.
  - c. Increasing the number of political education and literacy opportunities to young people so that they can better advocate for their needs and create systems change
  - d. Increasing the accessibility of youth panels, committees and councils so that all youth can participate regardless of their skill level, backgrounds and experiences.
  - e. Building a culture that values youth voice and lived experiences, regardless of their professional or academic qualifications
6. Commit to the long-term mission of the Territorial Youth Strategy where “all Yukon youth feel a sense of belonging”. This must include:
  - a. Signing on to the final document of the Territorial Youth Strategy and committing to its implementation
  - b. Place value on working relationships and partnerships across sectors by increasing funding for partnerships that support young people to thrive
  - c. Continuing to fund and support existing youth-serving projects and organizations to build long-term sustainability

### Long Term Strategic Calls To Action for Youth

1. Increase accessibility of safe spaces for young people, including increasing the number of safe spaces currently available. This call to action must include:
  - a. Maintaining a culture in schools that respects youth autonomy, dignity and mental health and wellness, especially when youth are feeling overwhelmed and need to step away from classes
2. Increase opportunities for young people to engage with leadership, strengthen a sense of community, and share their voices and perspectives both informally and formally
  - a. Ensuring that youth panels, councils, and committees go beyond the purpose of “checking a box for youth engagement”. This means making sure youth



- voices are meaningfully heard, acted upon in a way that does not tokenize youth, and included in a meaningful transparent accountability process
- b. Continuing to provide opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles and create change outside of youth panels and councils. This may include creating opportunities where youth can take on leadership roles and express their concerns through creative outlets such as art or music.
  - c. Increasing the number of political education and literacy opportunities to young people so that they can better advocate for their needs and create systems change
  - d. Increasing the accessibility of youth panels, committees and councils so that all youth can participate regardless of their skill level, backgrounds and experiences.
  - e. Building a culture that values youth voice and lived experiences, regardless of their professional or academic qualifications
  - f. Building a culture of transparency and honesty between community leaders and youth when youth request changes within their community
3. Commit to the long-term mission of the Territorial Youth Strategy where “all Yukon youth feel a sense of belonging”. This must include:
    - a. Signing on to the final document of the Territorial Youth Strategy and committing to its implementation
    - b. Place value on working relationships and partnerships across sectors by increasing funding for partnerships that support young people to thrive
    - c. Continuing to fund and support existing youth-serving projects and organizations to build long-term sustainability

### Long Term Strategic Calls To Action for Everyone (full list)

1. Increase accessibility of safe spaces for young people, including increasing the number of safe spaces currently available. This call to action must include:
  - a. Maintaining a culture in schools that respects youth autonomy, dignity and mental health and wellness, especially when youth are feeling overwhelmed and need to step away from classes
  - b. Maintaining a higher number of safe spaces available in the Yukon communities
2. Invest in long-term mental wellness support for young people both in and outside of school. This call to action must include:
  - a. Hiring counselors, educational assistants, teachers and school staff who represent an increasingly diversifying student body (i.e., to represent the needs of Black, Indigenous or racialized, 2SLGBTQQIA+, younger students)
  - b. Offering clinical counseling in schools for all students, especially those who are unable to otherwise afford sessions



- c. Increasing the number of counselors and educational assistants present in schools, and increasing access to EAs for all students
  - d. Establishing harm reduction supports for youth below the age of 19 (i.e., safe consumption sites)
  - e. Establishing a barrier free, 24 hr shelter/service as well as supportive housing options for youth, especially for those who engage in substance use
  - f. Building the capacity of mental health services (i.e., clinical counsellors) in the communities to reduce dependence on Whitehorse-based services
3. Provide funding for fun and engaging activities for youth within Whitehorse and the communities. This must include:
    - a. Funding for various activities and programming including On The Land programming, arts-based activities, recreation-based activities, and other activities for young people
  4. Increase programming that focuses on youth building positive relationships with role models that they trust. This must include:
    - a. Increasing youth Drop-In spaces with trained and supportive staff, youth mentorship programs, and programs which connect elders to youth
  5. Increase opportunities for young people to engage with leadership, strengthen a sense of community, and share their voices and perspectives both informally and formally
    - a. Providing youth with meaningful positions (that do not tokenize young people) at all levels of government (Municipal, Territorial, Federal, First Nations) to ensure that youth-perspectives and concerns are represented and reflected across all government work
    - b. Ensuring that youth panels, councils, and committees go beyond the purpose of “checking a box for youth engagement”. This means making sure youth voices are meaningfully heard, acted upon in a way that does not tokenize youth, and included in a meaningful transparent accountability process
    - c. Continuing to provide opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles and create change outside of youth panels and councils. This may include creating opportunities where youth can take on leadership roles and express their concerns through creative outlets such as art or music.
    - d. Increasing the number of political education and literacy opportunities to young people so that they can better advocate for their needs and create systems change
    - e. Increasing the accessibility of youth panels, committees and councils so that all youth can participate regardless of their skill level, backgrounds and experiences.
    - f. Building a culture that values youth voice and lived experiences, regardless of their professional or academic qualifications



- g. Building a culture of transparency and honesty between community leaders and youth when youth request changes within their community
- 6. Commit to the long-term mission of the Territorial Youth Strategy where “all Yukon youth feel a sense of belonging”. This must include:
  - a. Signing on to the final document of the Territorial Youth Strategy and committing to its implementation
  - b. Place value on working relationships and partnerships across sectors by increasing funding for partnerships that support young people to thrive
  - c. Continuing to fund and support existing youth-serving projects and organizations to build long-term sustainability

### **Yukon Youth Summit Background**

Over the past few years, the Youth of Today Society (YOTS) and Kwanlin Dün First Nation’s Youth Advisory Committee to Council (YACC) have organized and hosted the Millennial Town Hall. This annual event is a space for young people across the Yukon to connect and take part in a large conversation about issues that matter the most to them. This year, YOTS and KDFN’s YACC partnered with Communities Building Youth Futures (CBYF) Yukon, a collective of young people, youth-serving organizations, and community groups working together to support youth across the territory. With leadership from YOTS, many members of the CBYF collective came together to put on the largest event of its kind, the 2022 Yukon Youth Summit.

The Summit aims to increase connections, communication and collaboration between existing youth-serving organizations, youth groups, youth leaders and their communities at large. The Summit is also an opportunity for young people to connect with government (federal, territorial, municipal, and First Nations) to have their ideas heard and to hold representatives accountable to working for the wellbeing of our next generation.

This year, conversations throughout the Summit focused on climate and environment, education and curriculum, and mental wellness. These themes were informed by youth engaged before and during the Summit planning process with our community partners and the Summit planning team.

Discussions throughout the Yukon Youth Summit will be used to inform the Strategic Plan for the greater Yukon Youth Strategy. The overall goal for this strategy is to use the collective impact process to work together and ensure that all Yukon youth feel a sense of belonging. The youth input from this year’s Summit will also be used to help plan the 2023 Yukon Youth Summit.



## Objectives for 2022 Yukon Youth Summit

Objectives	Achieved?
1) <b>Promote engagement with CBYF</b>	Yes
Notes: The Summit provided a space to promote CBYF and build awareness about CBYF among youth, youth-serving organizations, and the general community.	
2) <b>Increase connections, communication and collaboration between existing youth, youth groups, youth-serving organizations and leaders</b>	Somewhat
Notes: The Summit provided an opportunity to discuss the gaps in communication and collaboration that currently exist. The Summit also increased awareness of community organizations about CBYF and other initiatives aimed to meet the needs of young people. However, there is still much work to be done to strengthen these connections.  Working on the Calls to Action that emerged from the Summit is one of the ways in which CBYF aims to meet this objective from the Summit.	
3) <b>Coordinate our collective efforts to address the key issues identified by young people</b>	Somewhat
Notes: The Summit provided an opportunity to discuss key themes identified by youth as areas of concern/topics of interest. However, there's still much work to be done to coordinate collective efforts to address issues identified by young people. Working on the Calls to Action that emerged from the Summit is one of the ways in which CBYF aims to meet this objective.	
4) <b>Ensure youth are heard, particularly "hard to reach" youth</b>	No
Notes: While the youth who were present at the Summit were heard and engaged, we still did not reach as many young people as we had hoped, especially those who are not already seen in youth spaces. Future summit planning will focus extensively on connecting with youth and building a strong CBYF presence among young people across the Yukon.	
5) <b>Inform the development of the Territorial Youth Strategy</b>	Yes
Notes: Youth participants voiced many concerns and needs at the Youth Summit. The majority of these concerns are not new, and reinforce what young people have been calling for in recent years. These perspectives and ideas will be used to help develop the Yukon Youth Strategy.	
6) <b>Engage government representatives (YG, FN, Federal, and municipal) to listen to young people and participate in these conversations.</b>	Somewhat
Notes: Government representatives from the First Nations Governments, and the federal government were present. Future Summit planning will focus on also engaging with representatives from the Government of Yukon and municipal government.	

Objectives	Achieved?
7) Hold government representatives (YG, FN, federal and municipal) accountable to issues and ideas brought up by young people.	Somewhat
Notes: The Summit provided an opportunity for young people to bring areas of concern to our leaders. Meeting with government representatives to discuss Calls to Action that emerged from the Summit is one of the ways in which CBYF aims to meet this objective.	

### Our Funders and Community Partners

The Yukon Youth Summit would not have been possible without the support of our funders and a number of community partners.

Funders of the Summit include the Yukon Government (Department of Education and Office of the Premier), Tamarack Institute, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Council for Yukon First Nations and Chu Niikwän Development Corporation.

Community Partners for the Summit include BGC Yukon, BYTE - Empowering Youth Society, the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office, Kwanlin Dün's Youth Advisory Committee to Council, and Youth of Today Society. These five partners form the leadership of the Communities Building Youth Futures (CBYF) Yukon collective. Other key partners for the Summit include the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Yukonstruct, F.H. Collins Secondary School, Carmacks Recreation, and the Youth Achievement Centre.

### Schedule Summary

This year, the Yukon Youth Summit took place from April 19-22nd and included a number of keynote speakers, panel discussions and workshops. There were 101 attendees across the four Summit days.

Keynote speakers included:

*Community Member Gary Bailie*

*Deputy Minister Nicole Morgan*

*Grand Chief Peter Johnston*

*Kwanlin Dün First Nation Chief Doris Bill*

*KDFN Councilor Jessie Dawson*

*Member of Parliament Jeremy Harper*

*Minister John Streicker*

*Premier Sandy Silver*

*Vuntut Gwitchin Chief Tizya-Tramm*



Sessions speakers include:

### **Climate Change**

*Doronn Fox*

*Emily Ross*

*Jodi Gustafon, FN Climate Action Fellowship*

### **Education**

*Chad Thomas, Yukon First Nations Wildfire*

### **Mental Wellness**

*Andy Nieman and Leona Arey  
Positive Choices, Positive Voices Program*

*Mike Healey and Emma Eaton  
Health and Social Services, Government of Yukon*

*Zakayla Netro, Vuntut Gwich'in Youth*

*Dr. Brendan Hanley,  
Yukon Member of Parliament*

*Chief Doris Bill,  
Kwanlin Dün First Nation*

*Lindsay Ellis, RCMP Detachment  
Commander Inspector*

*Carlie McCann, Community Constable*

Workshops on Healthy Minds and Safer Partying were offered by BYTE.

Several youth discussions also took place across the four Summit days. Key messages from these sessions are synthesized above under the “Calls to Action” sections.

