



NOTE: Document is still in Draft/Concept form

Below is the Draft/Concept Document for Territorial Youth Strategy (TYS) given the feedback as of July 12th, 2023. To ensure the Territorial Youth Strategy is community-owned, contributions and feedback from as many groups as possible is crucial to its success. We encourage any suggestions on all aspects of the Strategy, including:

- Changing, removing, or adding language
- Changing, removing, or adding to the structure of the document
- Format suggestions

For convenience, you can fill out this [feedback form here](#).

You can also send any contributions and feedback to erin.cbyf@gmail.com

Yukon Territorial Youth Strategy (TYS)

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CBYF Yukon and Collective Impact

The Communities Building Youth Futures (CBYF) Yukon project is a collective of young people, youth-serving organizations, community groups, and government representatives working together in the Yukon. The CBYF project receives funding and support from Tamarack Institute and Employment and Social Development Canada. CBYF uses a Collective Impact approach to target barriers youth face and work together to build supports and solutions for Yukon youth. The collective is currently made up of dozens of core organizations, plus many more involved on our 3 Action Teams: Individualized Learning, Career Inclusion, and Mental Health & Wellness.

Process: Development of the Strategy

The CBYF collective has facilitated the TYS development process thus far. This is because we value the importance of the TYS being developed and owned by multiple stakeholders from various sectors of the Yukon community, rather than by any government or single organization. This way we can ensure the TYS reflects as many perspectives as possible and that its implementation is held accountable by the Yukon community at large. While the national CBYF project is in its final year of operational funding, the collective will continue to live on in order to support the TYS. The CBYF Yukon collective may change its name and/or operational structure to one that best reflects the needs of the Yukon community.

Contributors to the TYS DRAFT (not a complete list):

Young people (12-30 yrs) recently engaged:

- **CBYF staff visited various remote communities from Jan - Apr 2023 to get feedback on the TYS DRAFT: engaged with 111 youth** in Champagne and Aishihik First Nations/Haines Junction, Teslin Tlingit Council/Teslin, Liard First Nation/Watson Lake, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation/Carmacks, and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation/Dawson City.
- **2023 Yukon Youth Summit (Apr 16-19, 2023): over 120 youth in person, 39 youth online**
- **Northern Youth Want (by BYTE Empowering Youth Society): engaged with 200 youth**
- **Youth Pathways to Leadership Project and Survey (CBYF Yukon, 2022): engaged with 75 youth** through online survey and/or in person

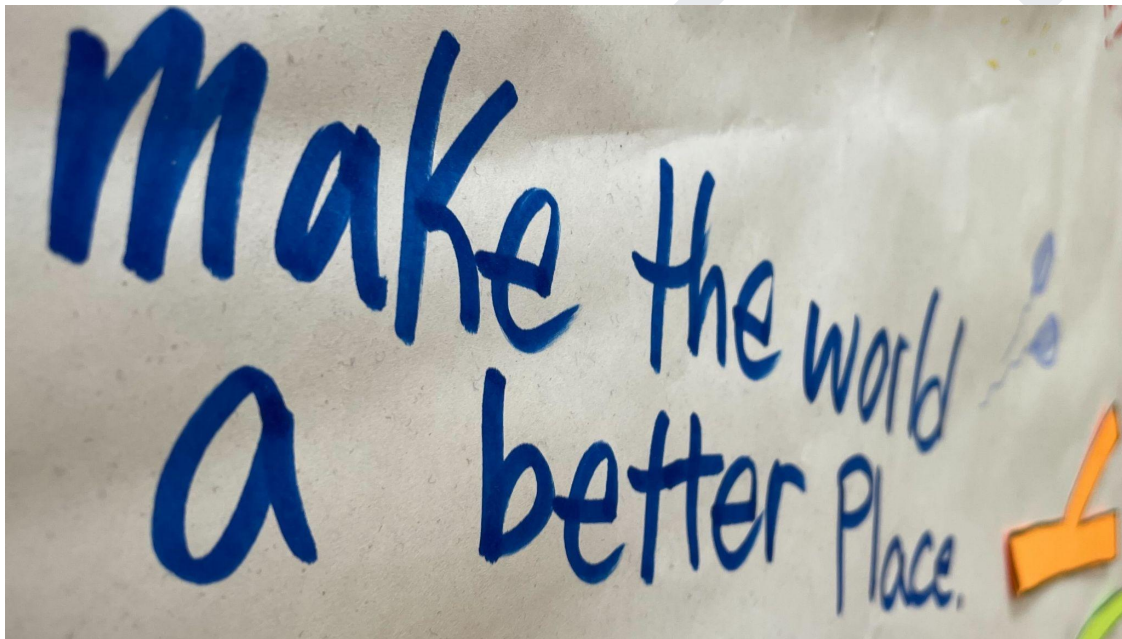
Youth service providers involved in the TYS process:

- **Community-based organizations:** BGC Yukon, Big Brothers Big Sisters Yukon, Blood Ties Four Directions, Boreal Clinic - Allied Health Service, BYTE Empowering Youth Society, Canadian Mental Health Association - Yukon Division, Council of Yukon First Nations, Employment Central Yukon, First Nations Health Programs (Whitehorse General Hospital), Inclusion Yukon, Multicultural Centre of the Yukon, Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon, Safe at Home Society, Skookum Jim

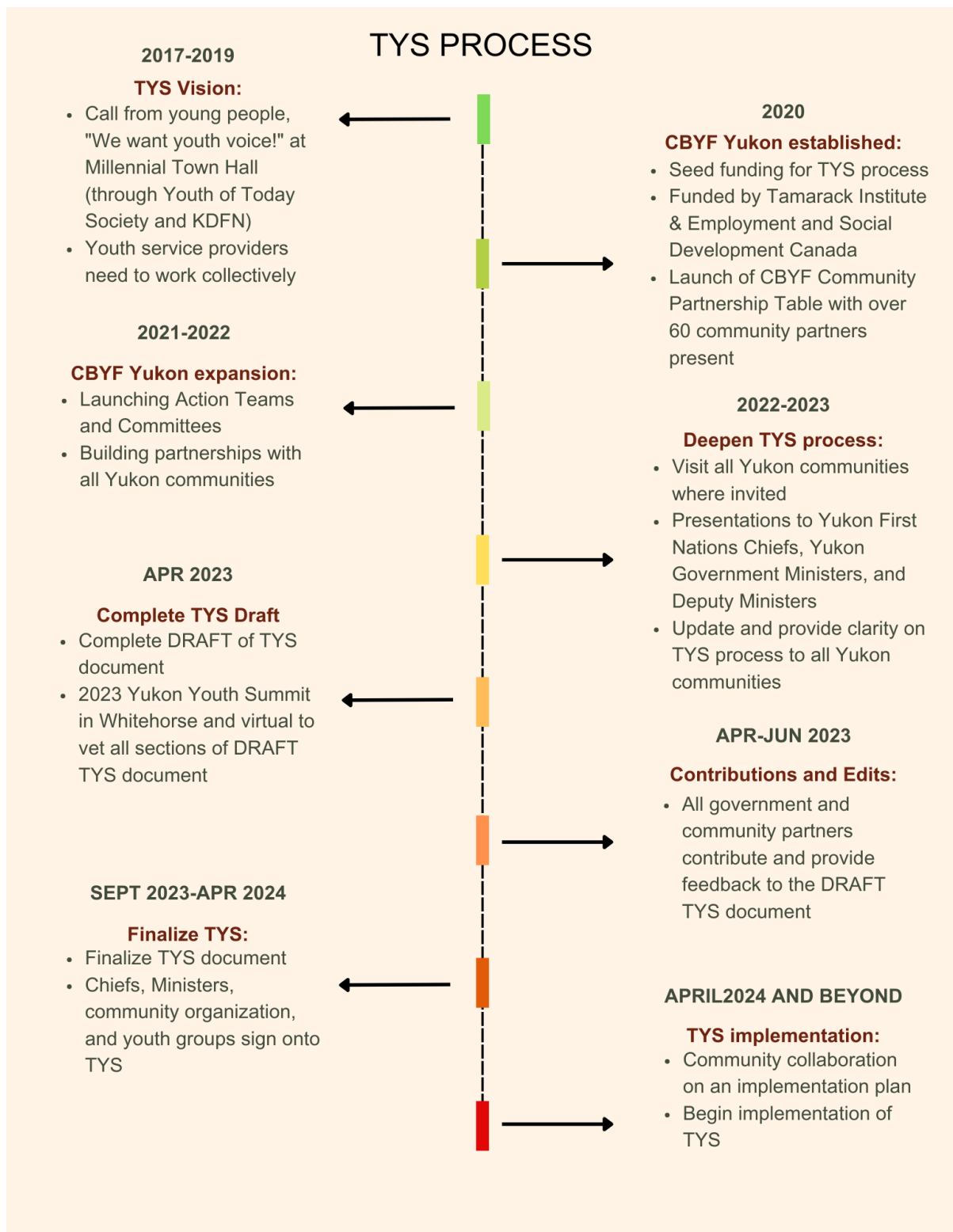
Friendship Centre, Skills Canada Yukon, Tourism Industry Association, UpstartED, Queer Yukon, Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board (WCB), Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, Volunteer/Benevoles Yukon, Youth of Today Society, Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office, Yukon Literacy Coalition/Family Literacy Centre, Yukon University STEM Programs

- **Youth workers at First Nation Governments:** Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation, Teslin Tlingit Council, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation
- **Youth and recreation workers at other Governments:** City of Dawson, City of Whitehorse, Town of Watson Lake, Village of Carmacks, Village of Teslin
- **Yukon Government:** Department of Education, Department of Economic Development, Department of Justice, Executive Council Office, Sport and Recreation Branch

The above list is a summary of recent contributions. Many more contributions took place from 2017-2023. Additionally, there have been many other key individuals that have contributed, including elders, cultural workers, families, community members, and more.



Where We've Come, Where We're Going



Foundational Values

1. **Meaningful Consideration of the Rights of Children and Youth**

Supporting and investing in our young people is the best way to ensure a healthy and vibrant Yukon community. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a universal standard for human rights to which every person is entitled. It outlines 54 articles that uphold young people's rights to be protected, supported, and participate meaningfully in decisions that affect them. In the Yukon, much work has been done to ensure young people are considered in policy. The Yukon's Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) Working Group, steered by the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office (YCAO), has been advocating for the CRIA tool to be used in all stages of policy development within Yukon Government and First Nation Governments. This provides a legislative framework which, when used effectively, consistently ensures that all aspects of Child and Youth Rights are honoured everywhere, in everything, and everyday.

2. **Yukon First Nations Ways of Knowing, Doing, and Being**

A foundation of Yukon First Nations values is integral to the success of the TYS. Yukon First Nations are leaders in understanding the need to prioritize children and their sense of belonging for the generations to come.

3. **Intersectionality**

Many Yukoners continue to suffer from various forms of discrimination. The TYS works towards a more equitable future through providing supports to all Yukon youth which increase their sense of belonging. This means the TYS must prioritize supports and services for underserved youth, especially those experiencing multiple marginalized identities (i.e., Indigenous, Black, and other racialized youth, 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth, youth with disabilities, neurodiverse youth, and more).

Principles of Implementation

1. **Youth Voice, Leadership, and Participation**

The TYS promotes a culture that values youth voice and lived experiences, regardless of their professional or academic qualifications. Young people must be the primary creators of the TYS and continue to lead the TYS process. This means increasing the accessibility of youth panels, councils, and committees, and ensuring they go beyond the purpose of "checking a box for youth engagement". It means providing opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles and create change outside of youth panels and councils, such as creative outlets like art or music. Providing youth with meaningful positions at all levels of government (Municipal, Territorial, Federal, First Nations) helps to ensure that youth-perspectives and concerns are represented and reflected across all government work. Young people must be meaningfully heard, their voices acted upon in a way that does not tokenize them, and must be included in a meaningful and transparent accountability process.

2. Collective Impact Process and Collaboration

The TYS process follows a Collective Impact approach which values the role and responsibility of all sectors to come together in supporting young people and the future of the Yukon. The approach strives to increase collaboration in order to make systems-level change through leveraging the strengths of different actors, reducing duplication of services, and addressing important gaps in services. It places value on working relationships and partnerships across sectors by increasing funding for partnerships that support young people to thrive. The CBYF Yukon collective network continues to grow in order to facilitate an inclusive TYS process. The TYS is for all Yukoners, and CBYF aims to collaborate with as many stakeholders as possible, including (but not limited to): every Yukon First Nation, Yukon Government Department, City, Town, and Village Government, every school, community organization, youth group, and any individual working to support youth.

3. Capacity Building in Remote Communities

Remote communities outside of Whitehorse continue to experience unique challenges compared to folks in Whitehorse, particularly their young people. The TYS recognizes the increasing need to build sustainable capacity in the communities so that young people do not need to rely on so many Whitehorse-based services. This can be done through increasing human resources in remote communities through recruitment and training opportunities, as well as continuing to fund and support existing youth-serving projects and organizations to build long-term sustainability.

4. Evaluation & Accountability

The Evaluation Committee (previously through CBYF Yukon) will be reformed to invite all interested members to join. Following the finalization of the TYS document and the implementation plan, the Evaluation Committee will support evaluating the implementation of the TYS. In addition, the annual Yukon Youth Summit will serve as an annual Accountability Forum for the implementation of the TYS.

5. Communication with Young People about Resources and Services

Communication has been identified as a significant component to youth feeling a sense of belonging. Improved communication is crucial for young people to know what resources and services are available for them, for agencies to better recognize each other, increase collaboration and information-sharing opportunities, and inform funders and decision makers what is working and what is needed. The TYS is committed to supporting more engaging, safe, and open communication tools. For example, but not restricted to: Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition Surviving Yukon Guide; Youth Network HUB - online resource supported by Youth of Today Society - Creative House; Yukon Government Youth Directorate - Youth Network.

Need and Urgency

The Yukon continues to experience many urgent crises, some of which are becoming increasingly challenging. Listed here are just a few of the urgent challenges facing our young people that the TYS aims to address (in no particular order):

- Mental wellness crisis

- Substance Use Health Emergency
- Housing crisis
- Climate crisis
- Post-COVID social isolation
- Lack of hope for positive future
- Need for increased sense of belonging in schools to address education disengagement
- Significant over-representation of indigenous youth in care
- Poor communication to youth about services, resources, and opportunities
- Intergenerational disconnect between youth and Elders/Seniors
- Labour market shortage
- Lack of youth voice and leadership opportunities
- Need for conversation around how these crises intersect

Pathways to a Sense of Belonging

Below are the identified priorities based on engagements with young people throughout the Territory, youth service providers, various reports, and research projects. See below for a more comprehensive list of sources and inputs that have informed the TYS.

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.

1.3. Food and Water Security

Increase funding of food programs to accommodate inflation costs to ensure continued access to affordable and healthy food. Continue to work with key food distribution partners including the Whitehorse Food Bank, YFNED Nutrition Program, Local Food Strategy for Yukon, Food Network Yukon, and countless food programs of community organizations to ensure all Yukon youth can access healthy and reliable food. Ensure communication of all available food programs so that youth can more easily access their options. Ensure equitable and consistent access to fresh drinking water for all communities. Work with communities to ensure they have capacity to access

supports intended to provide fresh water.

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

2.1. **Barrier-Free Youth Shelter**

Create a 24-hour safe space and shelter for young people that does not have a sobriety priority to access. Support the creation of these spaces in remote communities. In addition to the 12-18 yrs range, create spaces that are accessible for young people aged 19-26 who have “aged out” of youth programs.

2.2. **Sober Events and Spaces**

Offer engaging social events and spaces where young people can connect and have fun together without the presence of drugs or alcohol to socialize and pass the time, especially in remote communities. Prioritize after hours options that work with young people’s schedules.

2.3. **Reduce Stigma & Increase Recovery Support**

Reach out and care for young people who are struggling with substance-use reliance and invite them to participate in healing activities and relationships. Provide sober-only social spaces for those healing and recovering from trauma and addictions related to substance use.

2.4. **Funding for Treatment Centres and Intervention Supports**

Increase local Yukon-based treatment centres and intervention supports. 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.

- 2.6. **Building Relationships between Law Enforcement and Youth**
Invest in more Community Safety Officer (CSO) positions and prioritize building positive relationships between CSOs, RCMP, and young people and support them in making safe choices. CSOs to keep an eye on public spaces at night time to ensure safety for folks, particularly in parks by the river.
- 2.7. **Programming for Young Men and Boys**
Create more positive developmental programming for young men and boys to connect them with healthy role models, positive ideas of masculinity, and exploring healthy passions and activities.

3. Mental Wellness & Connections

- 3.1. **Youth Centres and Drop-Ins**
Increase the number of drop-in programs where young people can hang out, connect with trusting role models, and engage in fun activities. Support current drop-in program models to be open 7 days a week and increase 'after-hours' locations that can promote access to services beyond 8:30-4:30pm. In addition to the 12-18 yrs range, create programming for young people aged 19-26 that have "aged out" of all youth programs.
- 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.
- 3.3. **Communication with Youth**
Improve the ways that resources and opportunities are communicated to young people to increase access and awareness, both in their local community and the Yukon at large. This may include going to youth spaces (i.e., in school, clubs, youth organizations), connecting with young people through social media, hosting more information-sharing events or informal gatherings, and connecting with folks present in young people's networks (i.e., their families, friends, teachers). Meeting young people where they're at includes speaking in ways young people relate to and using clear language. Urgent need for a central hub to connect young people with what's happening in the community.
- 3.4. **Training for Recreation Capacity**
Build a sustainable plan to increase human resources capacity for recreation and youth programs throughout the Yukon. Increase developmental opportunities for young recreation staff such as trainings or crash courses.

For example, the Recreation North Training Program. Focus on culturally responsive and trauma-informed care, including awareness of intergenerational trauma.

- 3.5. **Funding for Recreation Capacity**
Allocate funding to support staffing and operational capacity of recreation and youth programs throughout the Yukon. This includes funding for staff, coaches, gear, and participation costs. Participation costs are a significant barrier preventing many youth from participating in recreation programs.
- 3.6. **Healthy Mentors and 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.
- 3.9. **Support for Caregivers of Young People**
Create more programs for caregivers to learn skills and be involved in the lives of young people, such as traditional parenting, parent/guardian support groups, child development programs, and father-specific programs. Create programming that is at accessible times for caregivers and is consistent. Offer programs that are specific to youth who are caregivers.
- 3.10. **Reduce Stigma & Increase Support for People Struggling with Mental Wellness Challenges**
Reach out and care for young people who are struggling with their mental wellness and invite them to participate in healing activities and relationships. Create peer to peer counselling in schools and the community. Integrate coaching on coping skills for how to work through mental wellness challenges as a young person transitioning into adulthood. Communicate to youth what a counsellor can assist with and how to access counselling.

4. Access to Learning & Education

4.1. Sense of Belonging in Schools

Maintain cultures in schools that respect the autonomy, dignity, and mental wellness of young people. Support Yukon educators to prioritize the Ready To Learn approach through relationship-building with students and strengthen their capacity to engage positively with youth, especially youth with marginalized identities, newcomers, and/or are neurodiverse. Focus on creating a safe culture for the entire school in order to prevent safe spaces from becoming exclusive.

4.2. Educators Support

Help educators consistently use and understand the value of curricular tools that support youth belonging. For example, traditional teachings & knowledge, Individualized Learning Plans, and inquiry-based knowledge assessment. Increase school prioritization for all cultural events to support students' sense of belonging. Support educators to prioritize process of learning over product and to consistently use interdisciplinary curriculum teaching and assessment.

4.3. Parents and Caregivers' Involvement in Learning

Engage parents and caregivers in young people's learning process through participation in parent-teacher interviews, school events, and cultural events. Establish the school as a community hub through family nights, after-school recreation, land-based learning, etc. Reinstating family nights in schools, such as the former "Whole Child Program", bridges the gaps between school, family, and community.

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, and Wood Street Centre. 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.

4.5. Wrapping School Around Culture

Integrate Indigenous knowledge and history into all parts of Yukon's curriculum, including deeper discussions surrounding experiences of systemic oppression and marginalization experienced by Indigenous people, as well as conversations that celebrate Indigenous cultures, traditional knowledge, and resilience. Support schools to prioritize integrating school credits into experiences such as traditional skills (hunting, skinning, etc) and working with Elders. Use Elders and traditional knowledge teachers more consistently in all learning settings and focus on a depth of knowledge rather than breadth of content.

- 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.
- 4.7. **Healthy Relationships and Consent**
Increase the frequency of discussions around healthy relationships, gender and sexuality, and sexual health, and introduce conversations at an earlier age in an age-appropriate manner in both curricular and extracurricular programs. Discuss consent within the context of all healthy relationships, not just sexual relationships. Workshops and curriculum should include education for all on 2SLGBTQQA+.
- 4.8. **Training on Responding to Unhealthy Relationships**
Teach about healthy relationships at a younger age so kids have a better understanding of abuse/toxic relationships. Educators need to be informed on what a consensual relationship looks like and the kinds of relationships they encourage young people to be in, and understand the protocol in supporting young people who have disclosed an incident. Provide workshops and training for young people and adult supporters to learn how to identify when an incident may be occurring, how to take action, and how to keep themselves safe.
- 4.9. **Support Resources in Schools**
Increase the number of counsellors and educational assistants (EAs) present in schools and increase access to EAs for all students, especially traditional language EAs. Support therapy animals to be available in all schools. Increase the number of counsellors and consistent access to counsellors. Increase opportunities for Elders to work within the schools. Increase the number of professionals informed on mental health and trauma in schools.

5. Employment & Career Opportunities

- 5.1. **Exposure to Career Opportunities**
Increase the number of presentations in high schools, career fairs, and careers classes, so that young people have a better understanding of their career options (trades, University, College, other work, etc.), particularly at the secondary level. Prioritize learning opportunities in the Yukon for healthcare professional roles. For example, Yukon University's Practical Nurse program. Bring students out to work sites to be exposed to what jobs/careers are out there, especially for youth in remote communities.
- 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.

5.3. **Employer Support for Youth Development**

Invest more in wage subsidy programs that support employers to hire young people effectively for entry level positions and support their skill development, especially for young people with barriers to employment such as Intellectual Disability and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder. Train and support employers on how to best engage youth employees and develop their skills.

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 and 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.

6.2. **Climate Action and Stewardship**

Prioritize conversations about climate change and education surrounding sustainability, climate change resilience, and mitigation to protect our land now and for future generations. Implement the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change *Our Recommendations, Our Future: 27 Programs and Policies to Embolden the Yukon's Climate Action* (2021).

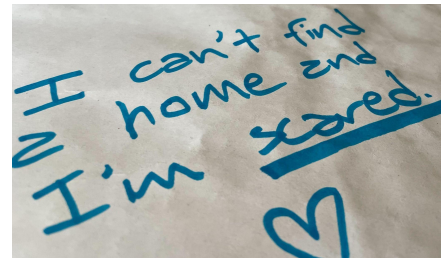
6.3. **Renewable Energy Career Opportunities**

Invest in developing career opportunities in renewable energy for young people. Increase understanding and connection to career opportunities in Lands and Heritage departments and/or sectors.

Priorities Identified for Year 1: Sept 2023 - Aug 2024

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.

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Create more positive developmental programming for young men and boys to connect them with healthy role models, positive ideas of masculinity, and exploring healthy passions and activities.

3.1 Youth Centres and Drop-Ins

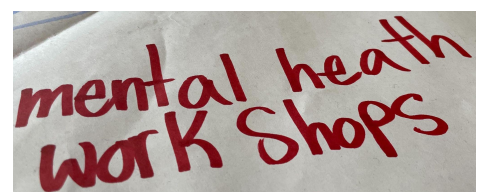
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3.4 Training for Recreation Capacity

Build a sustainable plan to increase human resources capacity for recreation and youth programs throughout the Yukon. Increase developmental opportunities for young recreation staff such as trainings or crash courses. For example, the Recreation North Training Program. Focus on culturally responsive and trauma-informed care, including awareness of intergenerational trauma.

3.6 Mental Health Resources for Remote Communities

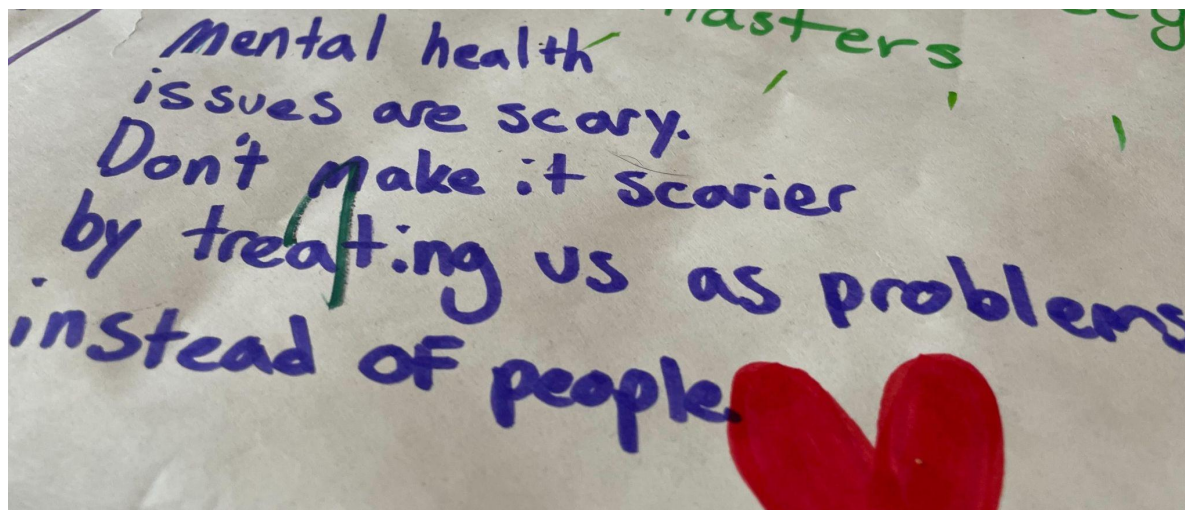
Building the capacity of mental health services (i.e., clinical counsellors) and cultural supports in the communities to reduce dependence on Whitehorse-based services. Promote



and support the resources already in the community first before bringing others in.

3.7 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.



4.1 Sense of Belonging in Schools

Maintain cultures in schools that respect the autonomy, dignity, and mental wellness of young people. Support Yukon educators to prioritize the Ready To Learn approach through relationship-building with students and strengthen their capacity to engage positively with youth, especially youth with marginalized identities, newcomers, and/or are neurodiverse. Focus on creating a safe culture for the entire school in order to prevent safe spaces from becoming exclusive.

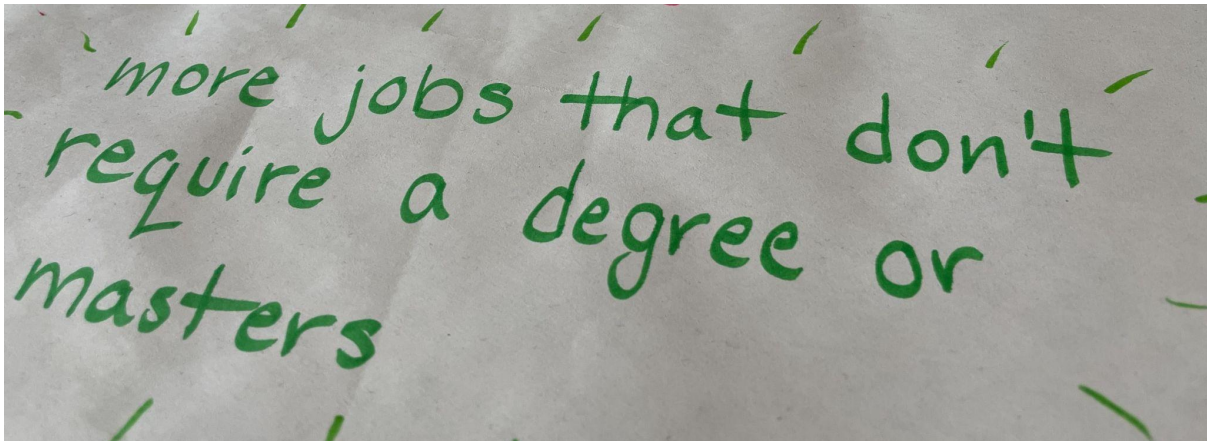
4.5 Wrapping School Around Culture

Integrate Indigenous knowledge and history into all parts of Yukon's curriculum, including deeper discussions surrounding experiences of systemic oppression and marginalization experienced by Indigenous people, as well as conversations that celebrate Indigenous cultures, traditional knowledge, and resilience. Support schools to prioritize integrating school credits into experiences such as traditional skills (hunting, skinning, etc) and working with Elders. Use Elders and traditional knowledge teachers more consistently in all learning settings and focus on a depth of knowledge rather than breadth of content.

5.1 Exposure to Career Opportunities

Increase the number of presentations in high schools, career fairs, and careers classes, so that young people have a better understanding of their career options (trades, University, College, other work, etc.), particularly at the secondary level. Prioritize learning opportunities in the Yukon for healthcare professional roles. For example, Yukon University's Practical Nurse program. Bring students out to work sites to be exposed to what jobs/careers are out

there, especially for youth in remote communities.



6.1 Land-Based Programming and 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.

6.2 Climate Action and Stewardship

Prioritize conversations about climate change and education surrounding sustainability, climate change resilience, and mitigation to protect our land now and for future generations. Implement the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change Our Recommendations, Our Future: 27 Programs and Policies to Embolden the Yukon's Climate Action (2021).





Year 1 Implementation Considerations: What’s Working and Combining Our Strengths

Current Initiatives in the Yukon

This is not a comprehensive list. We are trying to highlight examples of important work that is happening throughout the Territory. This list is always growing, please reach out if you know of anything to add.

Year 1 Priority	Who’s Taking Action on the Priority?	Strategies and policies contributing to the Priority
1.1 Housing Security	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whitehorse Emergency Shelter 2. Reaching Home Community Advisory Board (facilitated by Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition) 3. Safe At Home Society Yukon 4. Connective Support Society (formerly John Howard Society) 5. Council of Yukon First Nations, Family Preservation Wellness Centre 6. Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Housing Services 7. Spring Home Society 8. Blood Ties Four Directions 9. Yukon Women’s Transition Home Society 10. Housing First Residence in Whitehorse 11. Dawson Women’s Shelter 12. Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Jëje Zho (Men’s Shelter and Transitional Housing Program) 13. Help and Home for Families (Watson Lake) 14. Options for Independence 15. Cornerstone Supported & Affordable Housing 16. Rent-Geared-to-Income program (YG) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus</i> (Yukon Liberal Caucus, 2023). 2. <i>A Community-Based Action Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness In Whitehorse</i> (Safe At Home Society Yukon, 2017) 3. <i>Whitehorse Point In Time Count</i> (Safe At Home Society Yukon, 2021). 4. <i>A Place To Call Home: Research & Recommendations Regarding the Housing Crisis in Whitehorse, Yukon</i> (Blood Ties Four Directions, 2021). 5. <i>Ours to Build On: Housing Action Plan for Yukon</i> (Yukon Housing Corporation, 2015-2025). 6. <i>Bringing the Future Into Focus: Strategic Planning Document</i> (Yukon Housing Corporation, 2018-2023). 7. Government of Yukon: <i>Yukon Housing Corporation Priority Policy</i> (2023) 8. Government of Yukon: <i>Putting People First: The final report of the comprehensive review of Yukon’s health and social programs and services</i>, (2020).

Year 1 Priority	Who's Taking Action on the Priority?	Strategies and policies contributing to the Priority
	17. Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit program (YG)	9. Government of Yukon: <i>Office of the Auditor General of Canada report on the state of housing for vulnerable Yukoners Yukon Housing Corporation and Health and Social Services Work Plan (2022)</i> . 10. <i>Implementation Plan for Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy (2023)</i> . 11. Government of Yukon: <i>Aging in Place Action Plan (2020)</i> . 12. Government of Yukon: <i>Our Clean Future: A Yukon strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy (2020)</i> . 13. <i>City of Whitehorse Strategic Priorities (2022-2024)</i> . 14. <i>Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (Steering Committee, 2018-2028)</i> 15. Vuntut Gwitchin Government: <i>Strategic Plan 2022-2027 (2022)</i> . 16. <i>2020-2023 Strategic Plan (First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, 2020)</i> . 17. <i>Liard First Nation Housing Engagement Strategy (2023)</i> .
1.2 Transportation	1. City of Whitehorse: Modernized Transit Routes 2023/2024 2. Teslin Tlingit Council: Shuttle Bus for Gadzoosdaa students 3. Kwanlin Dün First Nation, transportation to appointments 4. School bus and bus passes (YG Department of Education) 5. Youth Achievement Centre bus passes and tickets 6. Travel Assistance Program (Lotteries Yukon)	1. <i>2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus (Yukon Liberal Caucus, 2023)</i> . 2. <i>Implementation Plan for Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy (2023)</i> . 3. Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce: <i>Yukon Community Travel Project: Final Report (2021)</i> . 4. Government of Yukon: <i>Putting People First: The final report of the comprehensive review of Yukon's health and social programs and services (2020)</i> . 5. Yukon Women's Coalition: <i>Taxi Safety Report (2021)</i> . 6. Government of Yukon: <i>Aging in Place Action Plan (2020)</i> . 7. City of Whitehorse: <i>Whitehorse Transportation Master Plan (2023)</i>

Year 1 Priority	Who's Taking Action on the Priority?	Strategies and policies contributing to the Priority
		8. <i>City of Whitehorse Strategic Priorities (2022-2024)</i> . 9. <i>A Place To Call Home: Research & Recommendations Regarding the Housing Crisis in Whitehorse, Yukon</i> (Blood Ties Four Directions, 2021). 10. Government of Yukon: <i>Yukon Active Living Strategy: Enriching Lives through Physical Activity, Recreation & Sport</i> (2012). 11. <i>Yukon Tourism Development Strategy</i> (Steering Committee, 2018-2028)
2.1 Barrier-Free Youth Shelter	1. Skookum Jim Friendship Centre (sobriety priority) 2. Nts' äw Chua (YG)	1. <i>Ours to Build On: Housing Action Plan for Yukon</i> (Yukon Housing Corporation, 2015-2025).
2.7 Programming for Young Men and Boys	1. Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Men's Gatherings and Men's Wellness Camps 2. Council of Yukon First Nations: Yukon First Nations Violence Prevention Program 3. BGC Yukon, Young Males Group 4. Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre: Boys group starting 2024 5. Youth Achievement Centre 6. Women and Gender Equity Directorate	1. <i>Implementation Plan for Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy</i> (2023). 2. Federal/provincial/territorial governments: <i>National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence</i> (2022).
3.1 Youth Centres and Drop-Ins	1. BGC Yukon 2. Multicultural Centre of the Yukon 3. Queer Yukon 4. Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, Youth Employment Centre 5. Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre (for female, non-binary, and children)	None identified



Year 1 Priority	Who's Taking Action on the Priority?	Strategies and policies contributing to the Priority
3.4 Training for Recreation Capacity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon 2. Recreation North Training Program 3. BGC Yukon 4. Yukon Aboriginal Sports Circle 5. Yukon Government Sport and Recreation Branch, Physical Literacy and Education programming 6. Youth Achievement Centre 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government of Yukon: <i>Yukon Sport Action Plan, Play Your Part: Sport for All, Active for Life</i> (2015-2022) 2. Government of Yukon: <i>Creative Potential: Advancing the Yukon's Creative and Cultural Industries</i> (2021). 3. Government of Yukon. (2012, April). <i>Renewed Yukon Active Living Strategy</i>
3.6 Mental Health Resources for Remote Communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yukon First Nation Education Directorate, Mobile Therapeutic Unit 2. Wellness counsellors in all schools (YG Department of Education) 3. UpstartED: You(th) Explore (Module 1) & <i>Seasons Of You</i> journal 4. Virtual resources: Reach Out Support Line (CMHA Yukon), Jack.org, We Matter, Canadian Roots Exchange, Connected North 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus</i> (Yukon Liberal Caucus, 2023). 2. <i>Implementation Plan for Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy</i> (2023). 3. Government of Yukon: <i>LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan</i> (2021). 4. Final Research Report: A Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions Framework for the Yukon (Government of Yukon, McMaster University, Dalhousie University, 2020). 5. Government of Yukon: <i>Forward Together: Yukon Mental Wellness Strategy 2016-2026</i> (2016). 6. <i>YFN Joint Education Action Plan 2014-2024: A Blueprint to Strengthen Our Roots and to Close the Education Gap</i> (Yukon First Nations and Yukon Department of Education, 2014) 7. 2020-2023 Strategic Plan (First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, 2020). 8. Government of Yukon: <i>Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy</i> (2023)
3.7 Intergenerational	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yukon Native Language Centre 2. Council of Yukon First Nations, Family 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government of Yukon: <i>Aging in Place Action Plan</i> (2020). 2. <i>YFN Joint Education Action Plan 2014-2024: A Blueprint to</i>



Year 1 Priority	Who's Taking Action on the Priority?	Strategies and policies contributing to the Priority
Connections	Preservation Services 3. UpstartED: You(th) Explore (Module 1) & <i>Seasons Of You</i> journal	<i>Strengthen Our Roots and to Close the Education Gap</i> (Yukon First Nations and Yukon Department of Education, 2014). 3. Government of Yukon: <i>2016-2019 Yukon Literacy Strategy</i> 4. <i>Sharing Common Ground: Review of Yukon's Police Force</i> (2014).
4.1 Sense of Belonging in Schools	1. Yukon First Nation Education Directorate 2. First Nation School Board 3. Reimagining Inclusive and Special Education Team (YG Department of Education) 4. Empowering School Communities Workshops (for educators, through CBYF) 5. Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office 6. UpstartED: You(th) Explore (Modules 1-3)	1. <i>2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus</i> (Yukon Liberal Caucus, 2023). 2. Government of Yukon: <i>Work Plan to address the 'Review of Inclusive and Special Education'</i> (2021). 3. Government of Yukon: <i>2023 progress report to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Addressing the recommendations in Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Education in Yukon, the 2019 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Yukon Legislative Assembly</i> (2023). 4. Government of Yukon: <i>Safer Schools Action Plan</i> (2022). 5. Government of Yukon: <i>LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan</i> (2021). 6. <i>YFN Joint Education Action Plan 2014-2024: A Blueprint to Strengthen Our Roots and to Close the Education Gap</i> (Yukon First Nations and Yukon Department of Education, 2014) 7. <i>Review on School Attendance</i> (Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office, 2021). 8. <i>Implementation Plan for Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy</i> (2023). 9. <i>Final Research Report: A Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions Framework for the Yukon</i> (Government of Yukon, McMaster University, Dalhousie University, 2020).

Year 1 Priority	Who's Taking Action on the Priority?	Strategies and policies contributing to the Priority
		10. Government of Yukon: <i>2016-2019 Yukon Literacy Strategy</i> 11. <i>2020-2023 Strategic Plan</i> (First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, 2020).
4.5 Wrapping School Around Culture	1. Yukon First Nation Education Directorate 2. First Nation School Board 3. Yukon Native Language Centre 4. UpstartED: You(th) Explore (Module 1) & Seasons Of You journal	1. <i>YFN Joint Education Action Plan 2014-2024: A Blueprint to Strengthen Our Roots and to Close the Education Gap</i> (Yukon First Nations and Yukon Department of Education, 2014) 2. Government of Yukon: <i>Work Plan to address the 'Review of Inclusive and Special Education'</i> (2021). 3. Government of Yukon: <i>2023 progress report to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Addressing the recommendations in Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Education in Yukon, the 2019 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Yukon Legislative Assembly</i> (2023). 4. <i>Review on School Attendance</i> (Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office, 2021). 5. <i>Implementation Plan for Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy</i> (2023). 6. Government of Yukon: <i>Our Clean Future: A Yukon strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy</i> (2020). 7. <i>Becoming: Strategic Plan 2022-2027</i> (Yukon University, 2022). 8. Government of Yukon: <i>2016-2019 Yukon Literacy Strategy</i> 9. <i>2020-2023 Strategic Plan</i> (First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, 2020). 10.
5.1 Exposure to Career Opportunities	1. Skills Canada Yukon 2. Yukon Recruitment & Retention Taskforce (Tia Yukon, Yukon Chamber of Commerce, Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, and others)	1. <i>2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus</i> (Yukon Liberal Caucus, 2023). 2. <i>Yukon Recruitment and Retention Action Plan (Tourism</i>



Year 1 Priority	Who's Taking Action on the Priority?	Strategies and policies contributing to the Priority
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. UpstartED: You(th) Explore (Module 2) 4. YASC 5. First Nations Wildfire, Beat the Heat Program 6. First Nations Health Programs (Whitehorse General Hospital) 7. Yukon Women in Trades and Technology 8. Yukon Youth Conservation Corps (Y2C2) (YG) 9. Yukon University, School Of Trades 	<p><i>Industry Association of the Yukon, 2023)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>Yukon Tourism Development Strategy</i> (Steering Committee, 2018-2028) 4. <i>Making it Work</i> (Yukon Women in Trades and Technology, 2019). 5. <i>Review on School Attendance</i> (Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office, 2021). 6. <i>Implementation Plan for Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy</i> (2023). 7. Government of Yukon: <i>Labour Market Framework Initiative</i> (2010-2020). 8. Government of Yukon: <i>Putting People First: The final report of the comprehensive review of Yukon's health and social programs and services</i>, (2020). 9. Government of Yukon: <i>Breaking Trail Together: An Inclusive Yukon Public Service</i> (2019-2029). 10. 2020-2023 Strategic Plan (First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, 2020). 11. 12.
6.1 Land-Based Programming and Healing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yukon First Nation Education Directorate 2. Council of Yukon First Nations, Family Preservation Services 3. Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Men's and Women's Wellness Camps 4. UpstartED: You(th) Explore (Module 1) 5. Yukon Youth Conservation Corps (Y2C2) & EnviroWild Summer Camps (YG) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus</i> (Yukon Liberal Caucus, 2023). 2. <i>YFN Joint Education Action Plan 2014-2024: A Blueprint to Strengthen Our Roots and to Close the Education Gap</i> (Yukon First Nations and Yukon Department of Education, 2014) 3. <i>Implementation Plan for Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's MMIWG2S+ Strategy</i> (2023). 4. Government of Yukon: <i>Putting People First: The final report of the comprehensive review of Yukon's health and</i>



Year 1 Priority	Who's Taking Action on the Priority?	Strategies and policies contributing to the Priority
		<p><i>social programs and services, (2020).</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Government of Yukon: <i>Our Clean Future: A Yukon strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy</i> (2020). 6. <i>Becoming: Strategic Plan 2022-2027</i> (Yukon University, 2022). 7. <i>2020-2023 Strategic Plan</i> (First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, 2020)
6.2 Climate Action and Stewardship	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship 2. UpstartED: You(th) Explore (Module 2) 3. Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance (YFNSSA) 4. Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee 5. Our Climate Quest (Science North) 6. Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre: Young Feminist Group starting fall 2023 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus</i> (Yukon Liberal Caucus, 2023). 2. <i>Our Recommendations, Our Future: 27 Programs and Policies to Embolden the Yukon's Climate Action</i> (Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change, 2021). 3. Government of Yukon: <i>Government Response to the Youth Panel Climate Change Recommendations March 8, 2022</i> (2022). 4. <i>The Yukon First Nations Reconnection Vision + Action Plan</i> (Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship, 2023). 5. <i>How We Walk with the Land and Water</i> (First Nations of the Yukon Southern Lakes, 2017-2021). 6. <i>2020-2023 Strategic Plan</i> (First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, 2020). 7. Government of Yukon: <i>Our Clean Future: A Yukon strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy</i> (2020). 8. Government of Yukon: <i>Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy</i> (2020). 9. <i>Becoming: Strategic Plan 2022-2027</i> (Yukon University, 2022).



Year 1 Priority	Who's Taking Action on the Priority?	Strategies and policies contributing to the Priority
		10. <i>2020-2023 Strategic Plan</i> (First Nation of Na-cho Nyàk Dun, 2020). 11. <i>Teslin Tlingit Council Salmon Plan 2018-2025</i>

Funding Streams relevant to Y1 1 Priorities

1. Yukon Developmental Assets Program (Government of Yukon)
2. Youth Investment Fund (Government of Yukon)
3. Youth Directorate Operational Funding (Government of Yukon)
4. Arts and Culture funding programs (Government of Yukon)
5. Cultural Industries Training Fund (Government of Yukon)
6. Community Lottery Program (Lotteries Yukon)
7. Travel Assistance Program (Lotteries Yukon)
8. CREation Community Grants Program (Canadian Roots Exchange)
9. Jumpstart (Canadian Tire)
10. Yukon Government Sport and Recreation Branch, Sport and Recreation Foundations funding programming
11. Community Recreation Assistance Grants (Government of Yukon, for unincorporated rural Yukon communities)

Government of Canada Strategies and Initiatives relevant to Yr 1 Priorities

1. Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (Employment and Social Development Canada)
2. Canada's Youth Policy (Youth Secretariat)
3. Federal Sustainable Development Strat

Appendix 1: Evidence and Input

Over the past many years of youth-focused programs, events, campaigns, presentations, academic sources, legislation, and research projects have informed the development of the TYS. The list includes many sources that cannot possibly all be named. Here are some of the main sources of information:

Youth-focused events and engagement

- 2023 Yukon Youth Summit (Youth of Today Society & CBYF Yukon, Apr 2023)
- 2022-2023 Collective Impact sessions in some Yukon communities with young people and youth-service leaders (Carmacks, Dawson City, Faro, Haines Junction, Mayo, Teslin, Watson Lake, and Whitehorse)
- Empowering School Communities Project (CBYF, 2022-2023, and 2021)
- 2022 Yukon Youth Summit (Youth of Today Society, Apr 2022)
- Youth Pathways to Leadership Project and Survey (CBYF Yukon, 2022)
- Supporting Students' Sense of Belonging in Schools (CBYF, 2021, presented at the Annual Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards, and Committees Gathering in October 2021)
- Youth Town Halls (KDFN and Youth of Today Society, 2018-2021)
- UNICEF Change Summit (BGC Yukon & UNICEF, 2019)
- Northern Youth Want Project (BYTE, 2022-ongoing)
- Yukon Youth Want Campaign (BYTE, 2013-ongoing)

Community Reports

- Youth Mental Health Research and Services (Yukon Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research, 2023)
- Yukon Youth Calls to Action (CBYF Yukon, 2022)
- Our Recommendations, Our Future: 27 Programs and Policies to Embolden the Yukon's Climate Action (Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change, 2021)
- School Attendance Review (Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office, 2021)
- Youth Engagement Report (CBYF Yukon, 2021)
- Youth Research Project (Northern Council for Global Cooperation, 2021)
- Whitehorse Point in Time Count (Safe at Home Society, 2021)
- A Place To Call Home (Blood Ties Four Directions, 2021)
- One Death Is Too Many: Grappling with the Overdose Epidemic in the Yukon (Getting to Tomorrow Yukon, 2021)
- Strengthening Our Connections To Promote Life: A Life Promotion Toolkit by Indigenous Youth (Thunderbird Partnership Foundation, 2021)
- Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy (Yukon Advisory Committee, 2020)

- GlobalChild research project (Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office, 2018-2019)

Government Reports

- Putting People First: 2022 Annual Report (Government of Yukon, 2022)
- Yukon Housing (Office of the Auditor General of Canada, 2022)
- Evaluation of Pathways to Education, final report (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2022)
- Mental Health Services in Rural Yukon—Department of Health and Social Services (Office of the Auditor General of Canada, 2021)
- 40 Developmental Assets (Search Institute, adapted by Government of Yukon's Youth Directorate, 2020)
- Health Behaviours in School-aged Children (HSBC) study (Government of Yukon and Queen's University, 2010, 2014, 2018, data for 2022 coming)
- Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Education in Yukon—Department of Education (Office of the Auditor General of Canada, 2019)

Additional Inputs

- 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus (Yukon Liberal Caucus, 2023)
- “Ensure that all schools in the Yukon have safe spaces for LGBTQ2S+ students in the form of student activities or organizations” (Legislative Assembly of Yukon, Bill 304: Act to Amend the Education Act, 2022)

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