



2025–26

Annual Report







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Christine Mahar
Chair, Board of Governors

A Message from the Chair

As Chair of Yukon University's Board of Governors, it is my pleasure to introduce our 2025–26 Year-in-Review report.

I have to begin this message with a note of gratitude to outgoing Board Chair David Morrison whose term ended in February 2026. David served as Board Chair for multiple terms through a time of tremendous change at the University – guiding our transition to Canada's first university north of 60, the launch of our first strategic plan, and the beginnings of our first major capital project. His steady hand, wisdom, and deep commitment to the success of the University have left a lasting mark on this institution, and we are grateful for his years of dedicated service.

This year, the Government of Yukon approved and adopted the Yukon University Accountability Framework. Developed in collaboration and

consultation with the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations, this framework will help guide how Yukon University reports on our various accountabilities established in the Yukon University Act. The Board approved the Framework for the 2026–2028 period, and its measures are already beginning to shape how we tell the story of the University's performance and impact.

We broke ground on the Polaris Project, and the progress in constructing our new science building has been impressive. Our first major capital project as a university, Polaris represents an exciting expansion of our capacity but also of our continued commitment to Reconciliation – incorporating and celebrating Indigenous worldviews and ways of knowing and learning. Our continued growth comes necessarily with transformation.

Our commitment to Reconciliation was reflected in Board decisions throughout the year. Yukon University became a signatory to the updated Indigenous Education Protocol for Colleges and Institutes, reaffirming our responsibility to Indigenous education as a core institutional priority. In March, the Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement between Yukon University and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in – an important step in deepening our relationships with Yukon First Nations governments. And with guidance from our Indigenous Advisory Circle, we began planning for a First Nations education summit and established an advisory committee to steward a transformational gift from the Mastercard Foundation in support of Indigenous learners.

Academic renewal continued as well. The Board approved the development of a new Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, our newest made-in-Yukon degree, along with updates to existing programming to ensure our offerings remain relevant and responsive to the needs of Yukoners. The Board also made difficult but necessary decisions to conclude some programs and refocus resources where they can have the greatest impact for students and communities.

The Board maintained its careful stewardship of the University's finances, approving a balanced 2026–27 operational budget of \$61.1 million and a capital budget of \$20.3 million, alongside improvements to the Yukon University Employees' Pension Plan that removed the waiting period for new members. We were also pleased to see the ratification of a new three-year collective agreement with the Yukon University Employees' Union, providing stability for our people through 2027.

Our continued growth comes necessarily with transformation. We said goodbye to our President, Dr. Lesley Brown, who we thank for her service and contributions. As we begin the search for our next President – guided by a Presidential Recruitment Committee that includes representation from the Board, Senate, faculty, staff and students – we are both honoured and thankful for the steady leadership of Dr. Shelagh Rowles as our Interim President and Vice-Chancellor and Dr. Bronwyn Hancock as interim Provost and Vice-President Academic.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I want to thank our students, faculty, staff and the communities we serve across the territory. Your dedication is what makes Yukon a place of opportunity, innovation and belonging in the North. I look forward to the year ahead.

Yukon University Board of Governors

Christine Mahar
Chair

Shaan Tlein Carol Geddes
Chancellor

Dr. Shelagh Rowles
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor

Judy Gingell

Carolyn Relf

Sharon Shadow

Victoria B. Fred

Michelle Parsons

Jeff Wolosewich

Brenda Butterworth-Carr

Dr. Andrew Roebuck

Mark Wedge

Ryan Alaric

Tom Ulyett

Jennifer Telford

Past members during the 2025–26 fiscal year

Dr. Sara McPhee-Knowles

Samara Robertson-Lawless



Dr. Shelagh Rowles
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor

A Message from the President

I am pleased to introduce Yukon University's annual report. The 2025–26 year was one of tremendous growth and transition, and this is reflected in the changes we made to this report.

A major milestone last year was the Yukon Government's approval of a new Accountability Framework for Yukon University. This framework establishes new metrics and methods by which Yukon University reports on progress in several areas. Among them is a move to narratively contextualize the work we do bringing fuller meaning to the numbers and percentages informing the report.

This year's report reflects that shift to telling our story. Incredible work is happening across the organization: in research projects and academic programs, in governance and organizational growth and in how we engage with communities across the Yukon.

Yukon University is stepping up on the national and international stage, contributing vital Northern expertise to the contemporary issues facing us all. And closer to home, our work alongside Yukon First Nations and industry and government partners is ensuring the Yukon is prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Our students are our priority, and this past year brought great achievements, from our growing graduating classes (growth that has necessitated a change of venue for Convocation) to continued expansion in enrolment and registration, in line with the goals laid out in Yukon University's Strategic Enrolment Management Plan.

We broke ground on the construction of our new science building, which is major physical growth for the university, but also represents how we aim to operate as a university: integrating Western science and Yukon First Nations ways

of knowing and sharing, and understanding that how we engage with learning is as important as what we learn.

You will find in the report that our story is not just what we are achieving, but how we are achieving our goals.

In the coming year, we will begin developing a new 50-year strategic plan. As we look to the future of Yukon University, we must consider the stories we hope to tell, which will guide how we impact Yukoners and the Yukon for decades to come.

Yukon University Senior Leadership Council

Dr. Shelagh Rowles
Interim President and Vice-Chancellor

Dr. Bronwyn Hancock
Interim Provost and Vice-President, Academic

Andrea McIntyre
Vice-President, Finance and Administration, Chief Financial Officer

Lexie McKinnon
Vice-President, Reconciliation

Erin McMichael
Registrar and Associate Vice-President, Student Life

Lindsay Moore
Associate Vice-President, Community Campuses and First Nation Initiatives

Daniel Anton
Associate Vice-President, Continuing Studies and CNIM

Gavin Gardiner
University Secretary and General Counsel

Trika MacDonald
Executive Advisor, Human Resources

Dr. Andrew Richardson
Dean, Faculty of Applied Arts

Dr. Fiona Schmiegelow
Dean, Applied Science and Management

Brent Langbakk
Director, Admissions and Enrolment Management

Stacey Cairns
Director, Finance and Administrations

Gene Batten
Director, Hospitality Services

Andrea Clark
Director, Human Resources

Jared Hougén
Director, IT and Chief Information Officer

Misha Warbanski
Director, Marketing and Communications

Dr. Davon Callander
Director, Research and Innovation

Sascha Weber
Director, University Infrastructure

Melani Adams
University Librarian

Past members during the 2025–26 fiscal year

Aisha Montgomery
Associate Vice-President, University Relations

Yukon University At a Glance



1963

The Whitehorse Vocational and Technical Training School opens. Renamed as the Yukon Vocational and Technical Training Centre in 1965.

1973

A university in the Yukon is proposed as part of the landmark *Together Today For Our Children Tomorrow*.

1983

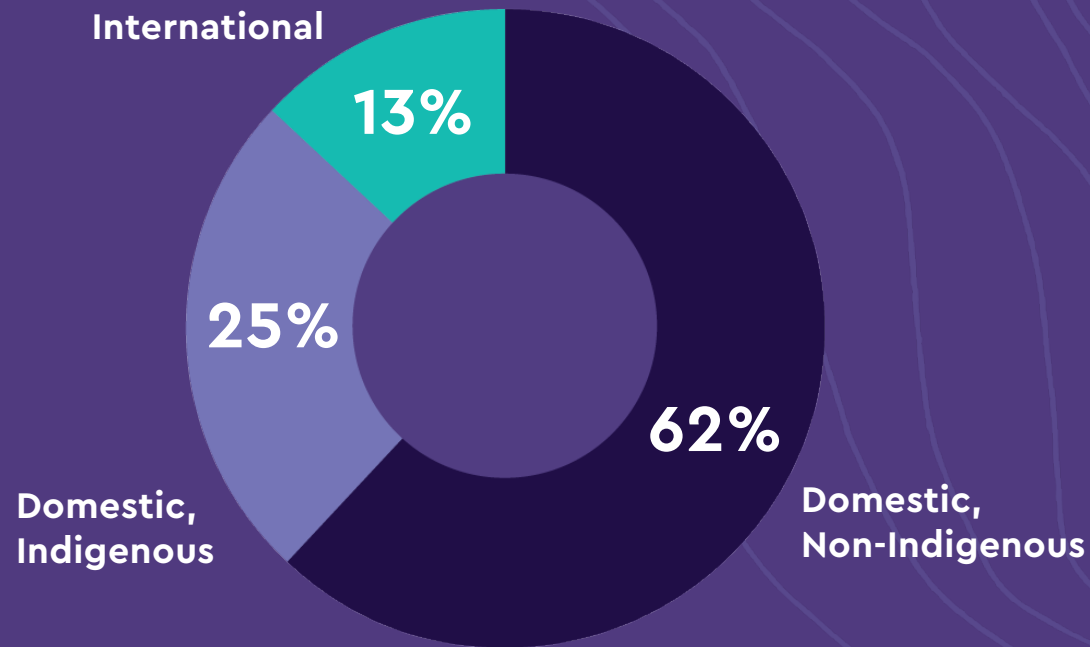
The vocational school becomes Yukon College, launching academic programming.

1988

Ayamdigut Campus in Whitehorse opens. By 1990, all 12 community campuses are open.

2020

Yukon College becomes Yukon University with the passing of the *Yukon University Act*.



Individual student (full- and part-time)
enrolment by learner group

1,298

Full- and part-time credential registration

Certificate, diploma, and Degree programs

9,856

Non-credential registration

Continuing Education, STEAM programs, First Aid and YFN 101, and non-credit programs in the academic terms

Guiding Documents

Yukon University is guided by four core publications that establish our values, goals, and priorities.

Breaking the Dawn

Adopted in 2024, *Breaking the Dawn* is a Reconciliation framework that establishes goals and actions to advance reconciliation, but also sets the tone for how we accomplish those goals in a good way.

Becoming

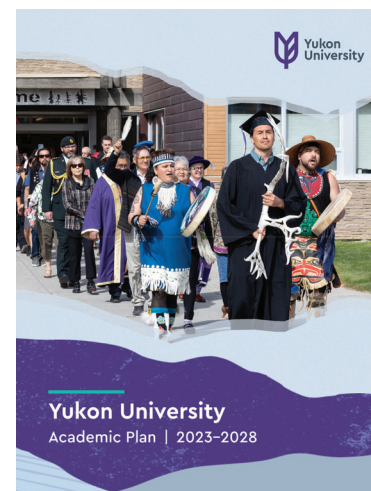
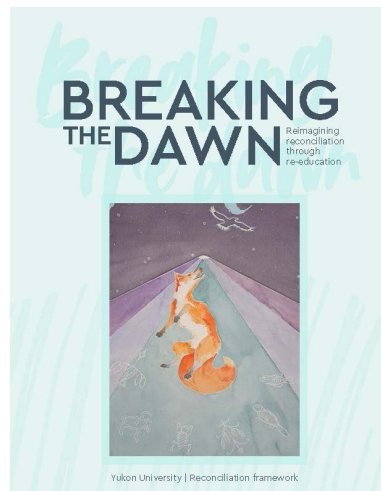
Our five-year strategic plan, laying out our vision, mission, and values, and centres our strategic priorities around five core commitments. **We are entering the final year of this plan.**

Academic Plan

Rooted in the needs of Yukoners and Yukon communities, this five-year plan sets targets for program development and growth, expanded degree offerings, and more.

Strategic Enrolment Management Plan

Last year, YukonU adopted its inaugural enrolment plan, focusing on eliminating barriers to enrolment and ensuring students are supported.



Vision

Yukon University will become:

A thriving learning and research community leading Canada's North.

Mission

We provide inclusive, quality education experiences that equip learners to seize opportunities, make change and positively impact local and global communities.

Values

- Quality
- Just society
- Integrity
- Relationships

Commitments

- Build our identity and nurture our culture as a university
- Take our place in advancing reconciliation
- Continue to develop our northern expertise
- Develop bold thinkers and confident change leaders
- Be leaders for the common good

Our new Accountability Framework

In September 2025, Yukon University's Board of Governors approved a first Accountability Framework for the university. As mandated by the Yukon University Act, this framework will assess the effectiveness of the university's performance in carrying out its legislated purposes, including its accountability to Yukon First Nations.

Yukon University begins a two-year implementation period as of April 2026, to allow the university to evaluate existing data collection methods and indices, and to develop new methodologies, systems, and policies required to support data collection.



Research and Innovation

Yukon University's research capacity continues to grow, from applied research expertise in a variety of environmental and northern sciences, to a growing body of scholarly work by teaching faculty.





\$6.7M Earned Research Revenue

50+ Active Research Projects

30 Proposals Supported Pre-Award

65 Grants Supported Post-Award

89 Unique Users Accessing Shared Research Space

162 Research Development Workshop Participants
Faculty and students across 11 workshops

YukonU Research Programs

Biodiversity Monitoring

Climate Change Research

Northern Energy Innovation

Permafrost and Geoscience

Yukon SPOR Unit

Faculty & Student Led Research

YukonU Research Chairs and Scientific Directors

Dr. Michelle Leach

YSPOR Support Unit

Brian Horton

Climate Change Research

Dr. Micheal Ross

Northern Energy Innovation

Dr. Fabrice Calmels

Permafrost and Geoscience

Dr. Rebecca Major

Northern Governance

Dr. Liris Smith

Health

Dawna Hope

Indigenous Water Governance

Reenvisioning research funding

This year saw an extensive overhaul of the university's internal research development fund, specifically to foster and support more relational research.

The new **Scholarly Activity and Research Community Awards (SARCA)** program (formerly the Scholarly Activity Grant) encourages and prioritizes the co-creation of research projects with Yukon First Nations partners, reframing the building and maintenance of relationships as essential to facilitating equitable research and scholarly practice in the Yukon and circumpolar North.

These changes advance calls to action in *Breaking the Dawn*, our Reconciliation framework and improves internal supports and transparency of adjudication, and demonstrates the leadership role Yukon University plays in advancing reconciliatory and Indigenized research processes.

More than **\$135K** allocated through SARCA

First Nations data sovereignty

The Research Services Office is proud to offer OCAP® training to researchers. Over the course of six weeks, discussion groups discuss supporting the principles of First Nations data sovereignty – **Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession** (OCAP) – and complete modules developed by the First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC).

This training is provided to YukonU researchers, student researchers, and community members of the Research Ethics Board.





Celebrating Yukon research

In February, Yukon University hosted its annual Research Celebration. The event grew from a single day to three, showcasing talks and mini-lectures from Yukon researchers on their work.

This event helps strengthen our network of Yukon-based researchers, promotes academic growth, and is an opportunity for the public and media to learn and engage with research happening in the North.

Research in Progress talks

Hosted by Yukon University and the Yukon Science Institute, these public talks showcase Yukon-based research and bridges community, researchers, and Yukon First Nations knowledge.

Research in Progress 2025–26:

9 Talks **512** Attendees

8 YukonU Speakers **15** External Speakers

In addition to the Yukon Science Institute, Yukon University works alongside other partners and sponsors for individual talks, including: **Raven ReCentre**, **Biodiversity Forum**, and the **Yukon Geosciences Forum**.

Northern solutions to sustainable energy

Northern Energy Innovation (NEI) leads Yukon University's research in clean and sustainable energy, specifically emphasizing the unique conditions and challenges of Northern communities.

Led by Dr. Michael Ross, Industrial Research Chair in Northern Energy Innovation, the NEI team works alongside communities, governments, and researchers from other institutions on four main program areas:

Electrification

Integration of Renewables

Grid Modernization

Knowledge Mobilization

Our work is focused on industry driven applied research. Since 2016, NEI research projects have included technical assessments of community energy capacity, improved sustainability practices and processes, and the implementation of new technologies.

Ongoing NEI research projects:

Accelerating Community Energy Transformation

Part of a national initiative led by the University of Victoria, YukonU researchers engage in community-driven research to define community energy, economic, and social needs, as well as pathways to achieving those objectives.

CANSTOREnergy

Led by the University of Toronto, this nationwide project investigates the development and deployment of carbon capture technology in communities across Canada.

Power System Impact Studies

Yukon University is engaged in the communities of Paulatuk, Northwest Territories and Sanikiluaq, Nunavut, studying the potential impacts of integrating proposed wind energy projects.

Climate Change

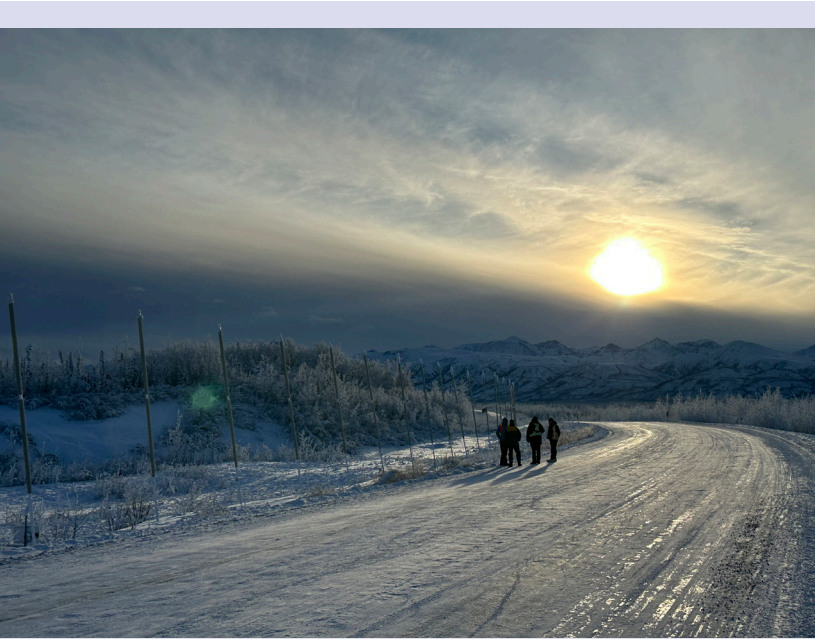
Through multiple interconnected applied research programs, YukonU faculty and researchers are working to provide vital expertise to governments, communities and others to advance solutions to human-caused climate change.



Adapting to highway geohazards

Under the leadership of Drs. Fabrice Calmels and Benoit Turcotte, YukonU has studied how changing climate is influencing the geohazards that threaten Yukon highways. Permafrost thaw, erosion, floods and icing all threaten northern highways in unique ways.

By collaborating directly with officials from the maintenance, planning, and engineering branches of Yukon's Department of Highways and Public Works, this project aims to improve the Yukon's ability to monitor, detect, prepare for, and efficiently respond to northern geohazards in our highway network. By targeting our data collection and applying pragmatic local expertise to Northern climate change challenges, this project directly supports keeping up community connections.



Building Northern resilience

For over 25 years, the **Climate Change Research group** has studied climate change resilience in the Yukon, sharing knowledge and advancing the understanding of complex systems in support of Northern societies. Motivated by questions from communities, Indigenous Nations, governments, and industry, the team aims to ensure that research outcomes are directly and immediately relevant to partners.

The team reaches across disciplines to study climate change impacts on infrastructure, glacial retreat, contaminants and aquatic ecosystem development in the Yukon River headwaters, the policy and programs that can support good climate governance, and soil science that advances agriculture and supports resilience of native plants.

Tackling permafrost melt

The **Permafrost and Geoscience research group** collaborates with communities, First Nations, governments, industries, and academics to address the impacts of thawing permafrost on Northern societies and ways of life, including travel on the land, community infrastructure, housing, and transportation corridors. The team's permafrost monitoring network covers the territory and has been collecting data in real-time over many years, creating vital datasets to support infrastructure and community planning, investment and remediation.

The team delivers expertise on:

- **Assessment of geohazards**, and climate-driven risks to critical assets and infrastructure.
- **Hazard mapping and surveillance** using UAVs, remote sensing, LiDAR and 3D modeling to support safe planning and development.



YSPOR

Housed at Yukon University since 2021, the Yukon Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (YSPOR) continues to serve Yukon communities, with vital research into improving community healthcare.

\$2.68M

**In additional funding received this year,
extending YSPOR activities to 2028**

Active YSPOR projects

2025 Yukon Healthy Living Study

Supporting Access to Care: Dawson City Community Hospital

The Power of Traditional Indigenous Medicines: Revitalizing
Knowledge on the Road to Reconciliation

Junior Researcher Program

Physical wellness through recreation

In 2025, YSPOR partnered with the Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon (RPAY) to conduct the **Yukon Healthy Living Study**. This study had previously been conducted by RPAY alone, but through this partnership, this community-focused organization gained access to robust research capacity, developing culturally safe and meaningful research on physical activity.

Over 700 Yukoners participated through an online survey and face-to-face surveys in rural communities, resulting in the **Yukon Healthy Living Study Report** which can now support the development of recreation programs and services.

Collaborating in a good way

In November, YSPOR held its 4th annual Health Summit in Whitehorse, with digital hubs in both Dawson City and Old Crow, welcoming 170 attendees to explore the theme of collaborating in a good way.

Summit programming included:

- **Keynote address by Dr. Jaris Swidrovich (Yellow Quill First Nation)**
- **Sharing circle, including patients and community members speaking on their lived experiences in the health care system**
- **Presentation from Kat Secore, co-research on "Dance Interventions in Long-Term Care" project**

Collaboration and community participation is core to the work of YSPOR, and the 2025 Health Summit reaffirmed our commitment to Yukon First Nations, to confronting unconscious bias and racism, and reimagining how we collaborate in spaces where trust in healthcare may be fragile.

Dänojà' Ch'ondey

Formerly *Gu Nähtsey*, this multi-year harvesting and traditional medicine research project takes place on Traditional Territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and has resulted in local herbal teas stocked at the Dawson Hospital and First Nation Health Program, and the stocking of a traditional medicine apothecary.

Academics and Training

Yukon University offers over 50 certificate, diploma, degree, and apprenticeship programs, and continues to develop new programs from microcredential training to full degrees – always in service of the needs of Yukoners and Yukon communities.



Yukon University Senate

Dr. Shelagh Rowles
Co-Chair

Dr. Ernie Prokopchuk
Co-Chair

***Shaan Tlein* Carol Geddes**
Chancellor

Dr. Bronwyn Hancock

Kim Diamond

Dr. Fiona Schmiegelow

Dana Jennejohn

Dr. Andrew Richardson

Elizabeth Chisholm

Dan Anton

Dr. Liris Smith

Melani Adams

Doug McRae

Lindsay Moore

Meagan Christie

Erin McMichael

Dr. Joel Cubley

David Estuardo Rojas Lasso

Dr. Kathryn Aitken

Kevin Kennedy

Sky Pearson

Amanda Graham

Jeff Wolosewich

Dr. Drew Lyness

Dr. Tara Stehelin

Dr. Victoria Castillo

Hillarie Zimmerman

Nicole Rayburn

Deanna McNaught

Julie Hawkins

Past members during the 2025–26 fiscal year

Dr. Lesley Brown

Cheryle Patterson

Patrick O'Sullivan

Laurie Parker

Faculty of Applied Arts



Dr. Andrew Richardson

Dean, Faculty of Applied Arts

Faculty of Applied Arts programs

Early Learning and Child Care

Education

Health Care Assistant

Liberal Arts

Northern Studies

Northern Outdoor and Environmental Studies

Practical Nursing

Social Work

University Access Pathways

Visual Arts

Yukon First Nations Arts

School of Health, Education, and Human Services

Studying impacts of the pandemic

Dr. Liris Smith, Assistant Professor and Health Research Chair published an article this year in the International Journal of Circumpolar Health, showcasing research on the psychological toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on frontline healthcare workers.

Dr. Smith's research uncovered extensive personal burnout stemming from overwhelming workloads, limited resources, loss of social connection, and feeling undervalued during the pandemic.

This Yukon research now contributes to a global conversation about the causes of burnout as well as mitigations that could strengthen healthcare systems in future public health emergencies.

Educational Assistant micro-credential

We worked closely with the Government of Yukon this past year to offer a new four part micro-credential for educational assistants in the Yukon.

218 participants from across the territory took part in tailored professional development and education through a series of four workshops covering:

- **The role of educational assistants in schools**
- **How to support student with complex learning and physical needs**
- **Strategies to support students with individualized education plans**
- **Interpersonal communications and teamwork**

We are proud of the role we play as a key collaborator in addressing the needs of Yukon educators, through this program, as well as through the Early Learning diploma, Yukon Native Teacher Education degree program and the Bachelor of Education after-degree.

School of Social Sciences and Humanities

A foundation for all learning

An often unsung success of Social Sciences and Humanities is its crucial role in developing well-rounded and broadly educated students across a wide variety of Yukon University programs.

From Indigenous Governance to Business Administration to Science and beyond, other Yukon University programs benefit from course offerings in language, history, anthropology, literature, and more. At the heart of these courses, and of the humanities in general, is an emphasis on critical thought – engaging with complex ideas, synthesizing contradictory or challenging points of view, and applying those learnings in new and varied disciplines.

Yukon University graduates, by virtue of their exposure to these ideas in addition to a grounding in our unique culture and context, are better prepared to enter a multi-disciplinary world where nimbleness and agility of skill and learning are among the highest value traits they carry with them.

Iterative course development

This year marked the first offering of **INTD 100 – Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies**, a new introductory-level course that will eventually form the foundation of the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree program currently in development.

The course's development is informed both by Elders and students, employing a development process previously used to create and improve **ENGL 140 – First Nations Fiction**. This iterative program helps build stronger courses and programs, and encourage early participants to think interdisciplinary.



School of Academic and Skill Development

Yukon First Nations Arts

Last year, we were thrilled to once again offer the **Yukon First Nations Arts** certificate program, which had not run since 2022.

The program comprises six art modules and four University Access Pathway courses in English and math. Students gain hands-on instruction in beadwork, sewing, traditional footwear, carving, and other traditional arts and craftwork.

The first graduate of the renewed program crossed the stage at Convocation 2026.

The "Travelling Roadshow"

This year marked the second year of the "Travelling Roadshow", sending instructors to a variety of Yukon communities to deliver English courses through the University Access Pathways program.

Only available for community-based students, these courses are virtually accessible, with the instructor visiting each student's community to offer on-site support and instruction. This, in addition to the existing supports offered by instructor/coordinators at each community campus, whose contributions are crucial to the success of the program. Meeting students where they are and ensuring their studies don't conflict with their familial and community responsibilities increases their academic success and strengthens the relationships between all of YukonU's campuses.

This program runs from October to March with a break in December, better matching the schedule of rural communities.



Faculty of Applied Science and Management



Dr. Fiona Schmiegelow

Dean, Faculty of Applied
Science and Management

Faculty of Applied Science and Management programs

Biological Sciences

Business Administration

Earth Sciences

Environmental Monitoring

First Nations Governance and Public Administration

Indigenous Governance

Multimedia Communications

Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences

Office Administration

Renewable Resources Management

Science

School of Science

Biological Sciences diploma

This past year marked the first offering of **BCHM 200 – Introduction to Biochemistry**. This course offering was the final piece in what is now a complete Biological Sciences diploma program, and begins laying the groundwork for the development of future science degree programs, such as Interdisciplinary Science and Nursing.

In addition to this diploma offering, Yukon University has entered into a block transfer agreement with Vancouver Island University (VIU), wherein students can complete their Biological Sciences diploma and YukonU and then complete their Bachelor of Science degree at VIU.

Similar to arrangements already in place for the Earth Sciences program, these block transfer agreements build pathways for Yukon University students to learn and study with VIU and Acadia University in a unique Northern context while working towards degrees that are not currently available or able to be offered in the Yukon.

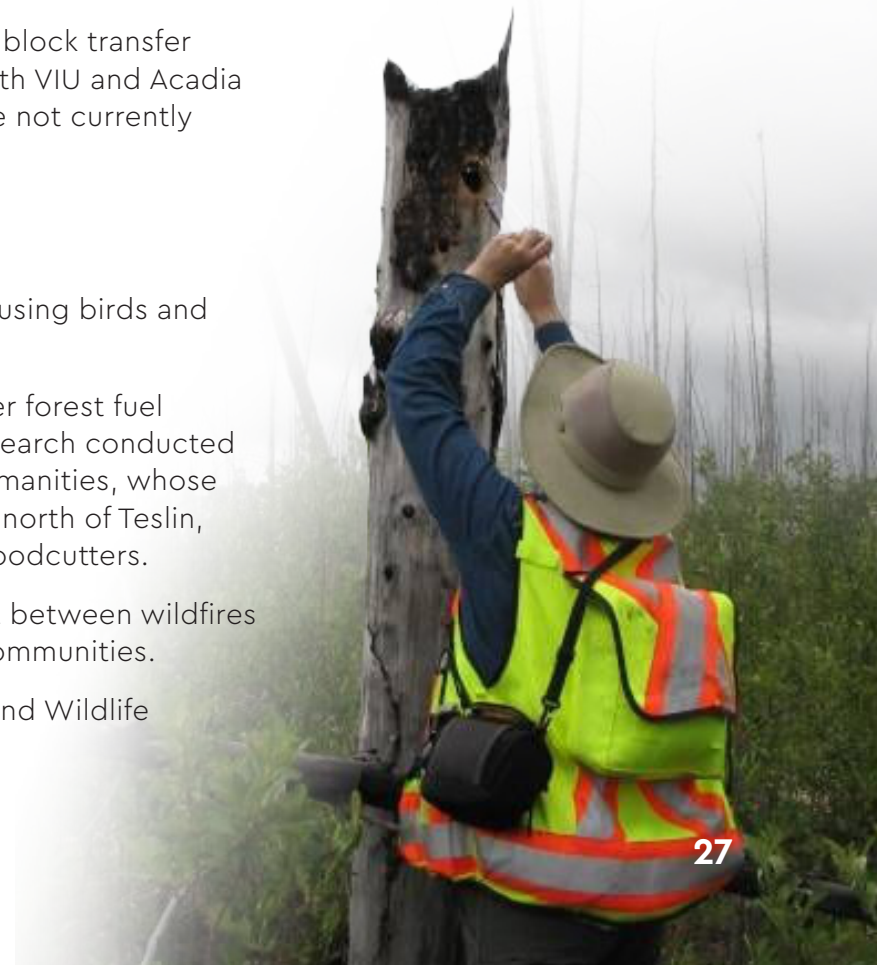
What's inside Yukon forests?

Dr. Kathryn Aitken, Associate Professor in the School of Science, studies cavity-using birds and mammals in Southern Yukon forests.

In 2025, her research expanded, examining the effects of FireSmarting and other forest fuel treatments on tree-cavity availability and characteristics. This complements research conducted by Dr. Alison Perrin, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, whose research aims at understanding how to introduce less flammable plant species north of Teslin, mitigating wildfire risk to the community while making timber accessible for woodcutters.

This research underscores the extreme precarity of tree-cavity ecology, caught between wildfires themselves and the mitigations implemented to reduce their harm to human communities.

This research was supported by YukonU's SARCA program and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust.



School of Business and Leadership

New Office Administration streams

The 2025–26 academic year marked the first graduating class of our restructured Office Administration certificate program. The program was reorganized into three streams: Administrative Assistant, Financial Assistant, and Medical Office Assistant.

The program celebrated **27 graduates** across the three streams.

Yukon Citizens' Assembly

Dr. Sara McPhee-Knowles, Associate Professor in the School of Business and Leadership, has led crucial research on citizens' assemblies including serving as Chair of the Yukon Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform (YCAER).

Alongside Dr. Rebecca Major (YukonU Research Chair, Northern Governance), and Dr. Christoph Niessen from the University of Antwerp/UC Louvain, a follow-up survey was delivered to measure Yukon public perception of the YCAER, their level of awareness of the work of the assembly, and to determine if and how this may have influenced their choice to vote in the plebiscite.

Dr. McPhee-Knowles and Dr. Niessen led a workshop on citizens' assemblies in small population contexts at the Democracy R&D international conference in Brussels, Belgium in October 2025, demonstrating how even small and remote populations like the Yukon can impact and guide broader academic research internationally.

For her work on the YCAER, **Dr. McPhee-Knowles was awarded the Council of the Federation Literacy Award.**



School of Indigenous Governance

In 2025–26, YukonU formally established the School of Indigenous Governance in the Faculty of Applied Science and Management. The School of Indigenous Governance houses the **Bachelor of Indigenous Governance** and **First Nations Governance and Public Administration** programs, includes the Research Chair in Northern Governance, and positions the institution as a recognized centre of Indigenous governance.

Our continued partnership and collaboration with Yukon First Nations is crucial to how our work strengthens Northern leadership capacity.



In the Pit

We launched ***In the Pit with Peter***, a conversation series hosted by Peter Johnston, former Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations.

These live conversations featured leaders, knowledge holder, and changemakers discussing issues from Indigenous governance and education to innovation, community and the future of the North.

Indigenous water governance

The Yukon University Foundation worked with The Gordon Foundation to secure **\$2.5 million** in funding to establish a **Research Chair in Indigenous Water Governance**.

Beginning in 2026–27, this position will lead collaborative efforts to shape policies and governance structures related to the implementation of Chapter 14 of the Yukon First Nations Final Agreements, as well as advancing water governance initiatives across the Yukon and the North.

School of Trades

Landmark cohort

In March 2026, **11 Level 4 Heavy Equipment Technician (HET) apprentices** wrote their Red Seal examinations – **the largest cohort ever for this program at Yukon University.**

This program encapsulates the work of the School of Trades, meeting the needs of Yukon industry and providing full-service trades training in the territory, from pre-apprenticeship through all four levels of technical training. This supplies the Yukon with skilled and knowledgeable technicians that support vital commercial and industrial needs, strengthening our capacity as we continue to grow.

140

Total trades enrolment

44

Pre-apprenticeship

96

Apprenticeship

School of Trades programs

Carpentry

Electrical

Heavy Equipment Technician

Millwright

Oil Burner Mechanic

Pipe Trades

Welding

**Not all programs intake every academic year.*

Working in partnership

In addition to core programming, Yukon University delivers a series of trades workshops in collaboration with community partners including the Yukon First Nations Education Directorate, the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN), and Yukon Women in Trades and Technology (YWiTT).

We delivered an axe-carving workshop with CYFN, connecting technical skills with culture, elevating community priorities in how we tailor and deliver trades training in the Yukon.

Alongside the Yukon Government's Department of Education, we continue to explore and provide opportunities to upskill Yukon educators and support learners. Welding training (in collaboration with CWB Welding Foundation) strengthens the capacity of Yukon high school metal shop teachers.

Women in trades

Yukon University works to break down gender-based barriers to trades education.

We launched the inaugural **Kickstart carpentry program** this year in partnership with YWiTT, an eight-week paid training opportunity building practical carpentry skills for women and gender-diverse participants. With the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, we offered renovation-based learning opportunities that provided hands-on applied learning for their community.

These initiatives help support a shift in trades participation in the Yukon – in particular, enrolment in upcoming **Pre-Apprenticeship Carpentry is now evenly split between men and women and gender-diverse people.**



Division of Continuing Studies



Dan Anton

Associate Vice-President,
Continuing Studies & CNIM

Continuing Studies topics and programs

Administrative and Computer Skills

Bookkeeping and Finance

Climate Change

Commerical Driving

Conflict Resolution

Driller's Helper

First Aid

First Line Supervisor

FoodSafe

Heavy Equipment Operator

Human Resources

Industrial Safety Training

Leadership and Management

Non-Profit Organization Training

Northern Energy

Older Workers Program

Personal Interest

Professional Skill Development

Project Management

Social Justice

Water and Wastewater Operator

Yukon First Nations 101

Youth STEAM and Trades

Community Safety Guardians

Yukon University is proud to have launched the **Community Safety Guardians** program this past year – our first microcredential offering.

Developed in partnership with **House of Wolf & Associates**, this part-time training program was designed to build and support local capacity for safety and wellness in Yukon First Nations communities. Participants gain entry-level skills in a variety of community safety areas, including:

Trauma-informed care

Conflict de-escalation

First aid & emergencies

Cultural safety

Law and ethics

Connecting to support services

Training for one week per month for six months, participants in the program were able to remain connected to their communities, better navigate work and familial responsibilities, and also reflect on each week's module. The result is a flexible program designed for Yukoners from remote or rural communities.

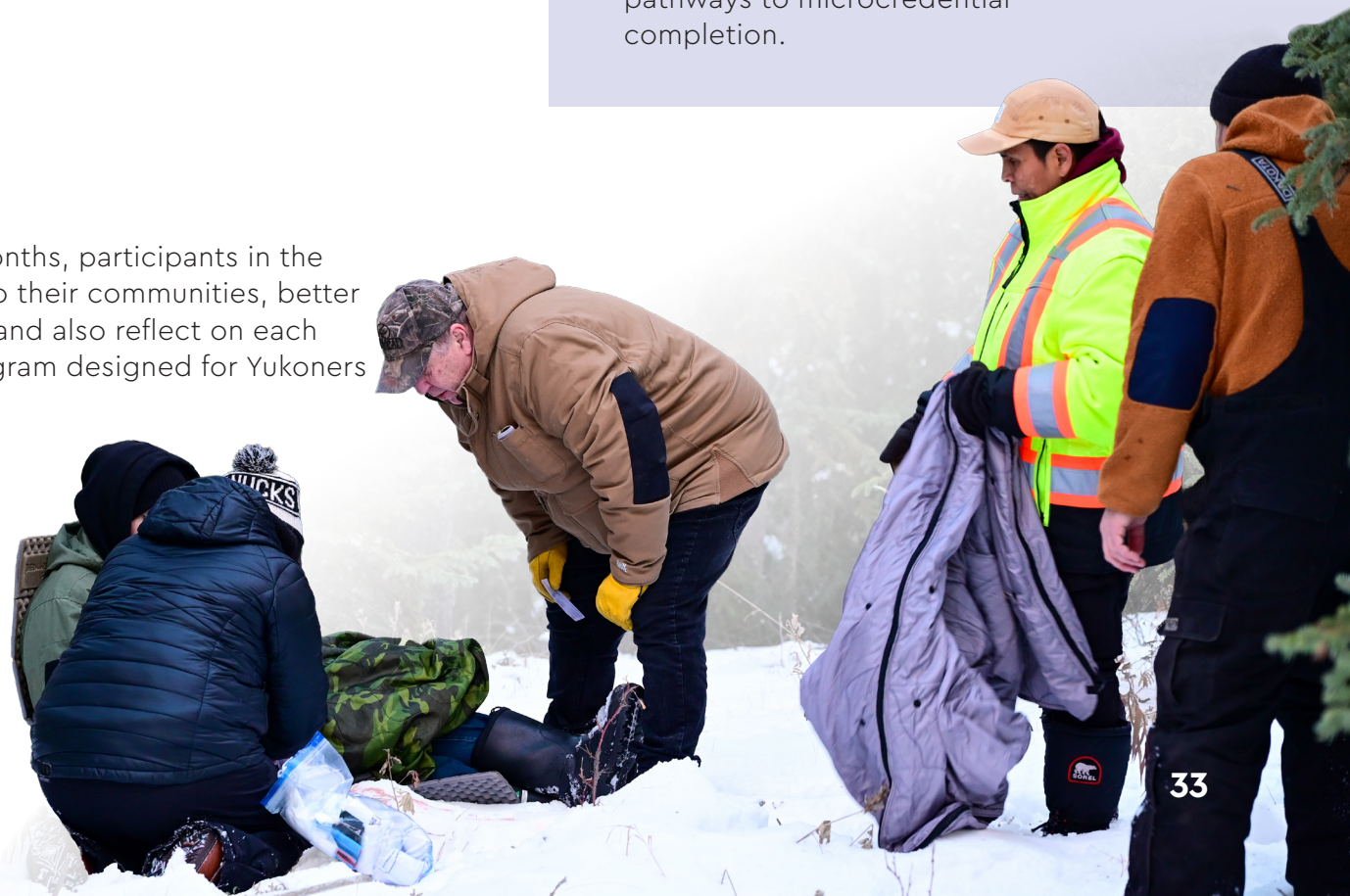
11
Graduates

6 week-long modules over 6 months

Minimal disruption to communities.
Greater flexibility with work and
familial commitments.

Completion certificate for each module

Opportunities for flexible
pathways to microcredential
completion.



Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining

The Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining (CNIM) delivers programs across the Yukon, utilizing mobile simulators and training trailers to improve access in communities.

Commercial Driving

This past year, the Commercial Driving program provided in-cab Class 1 and Class 3 training to over 45 students. 143 students obtained their Air Brake Endorsement.

Additionally, the Advanced Commercial Driving Project provided training to students in five Yukon communities (Whitehorse, Dawson City, Carmacks, Faro, and Ross River).

YWWOP

The Yukon Water and Wastewater Operators program, alongside the Circuit Rider training program, offering training and certification for wastewater operators in the territory.

This year, these programs enrolled **122 students**, helping ensure that Yukon municipalities and First Nations have qualified individuals to manage, monitor, and maintain safe, potable water.

CNIM helps support academic programs at Yukon University, including the Environmental Monitoring certificate, Earth Sciences diploma, and Heavy Equipment Technician pre-apprenticeship certificate.



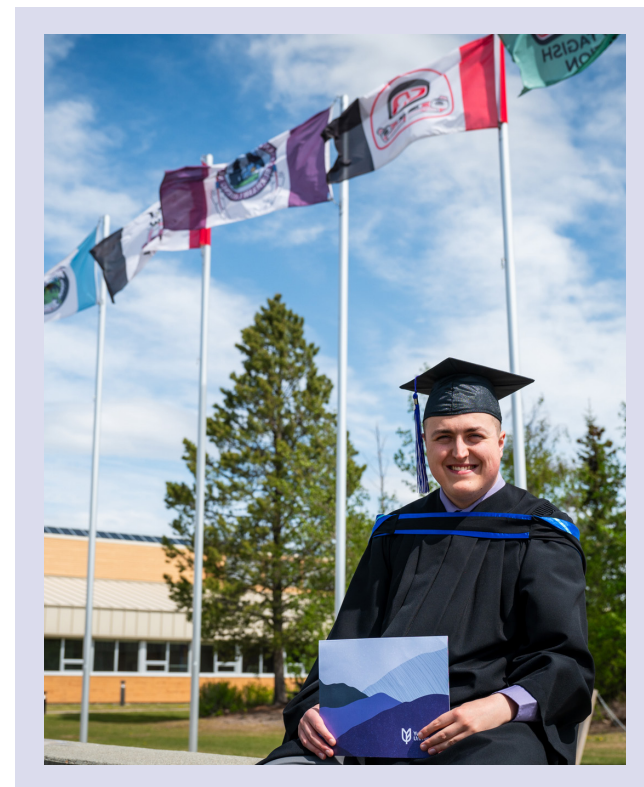
Degree Development

Now firmly established as a university, we continue to develop new and innovative programs that speak directly to the needs of the territory and community.

Academic program development at Yukon University is guided by the goals and priorities outlined in our Academic Plan. More importantly, we expand degree programs, we are guided by Yukon First Nations, Elders, and communities, to ensure that we meet the needs of Yukon communities.

What this means is not just consultation, but beginning the development process with Elders' Circles to envision not only degree program needs but also to shape program curriculum, establish unique priorities and goals for program delivery in ways that are both academically recognized and culturally and community-driven.

Our goal is to develop programs that meet emerging needs in the territory, establish programs and pathways that allow for continuing education for professionals, and enhance access to trades and sector-specific skills in Yukon communities.



Degrees currently in development

BA

Interdisciplinary Studies
Fall 2027

BSW

Social Work
Fall 2027

BEd

Education
Fall 2027

BScN

Nursing
TBD

BSc

Interdisciplinary Science
TBD

Social Work

As we continue to grow as a university, Yukon University is developing its own **Bachelor of Social Work** degree.

Early development to date has included two Social Work-focused Elders Circles, engagement with Yukon First Nations governments and organizations, and wider community engagement.

The development of this new program grounds the degree in the Yukon context, ensures cultural and community issues are centred, and directly supports the needs of the Yukon.

YukonU's Bachelor of Social Work is anticipated to launch in Fall 2028.

Interdisciplinary Studies

This year, we moved closer to the creation of our first general arts degree program. The **Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies** program will not only allow students to tailor a degree from a wide variety of social studies and humanities courses, but it will also specifically empower students to think critically about what interdisciplinary learning and research means.

The program aims to launch in Fall 2027, including offering transfer pathways to students currently enrolled in relevant certificate and diploma programs.

Yukon Law

Responding to needs addressed by our community, Yukon University is partnering with the University of Calgary to offer a single cohort of its three year law degree program at YukonU.

This program is designed to address a need for Yukon-based and Yukon-specific legal training, including:

- **Complexity of the Yukon's specific legal framework**, including Indigenous governance, final agreement implementation, and more.
- **Lack of access and barriers to legal education**, including high costs, lack of community supports, and systemic barriers, especially to Indigenous Yukoners.
- **Strain on Yukon legal capacity**, resulting in higher costs and reduced familiarity and experience due to a lack of Yukon-based and -trained lawyers.

Intake for this program is anticipated to open in Fall 2026, for a **Fall 2027 program start**.



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY



Yukon
University



Student and Community Wellbeing

Meeting the needs of learners extends beyond the classroom, and Yukon University strives to engage, support, and celebrate our students and community.



92%

Overall student satisfaction with YukonU

89%

Students would recommend YukonU to others

\$64,455

Student financial awards disbursed

Additional student housing

We updated our Campus Housing policy to prioritize students from Yukon communities.

Smart renovations and space-use decisions within existing housing supply allowed us to **increase our capacity to 128 student housing spaces** in 2026–27, up from 108 in 2025–26.

Elders on Campus

At both the Ayamdigut campus in Whitehorse and Tr'odëk Hätr'unohän Zho in Dawson City, we are honoured to have Yukon First Nations Elders on campus.

The Elders regularly give talks, share music and stories, and provide spiritual wellness and support.

At Ayamdigut, *Samay Thia* Harry Allen Lounge provides a culturally inclusive space for students, faculty, and staff to work, rest, and engage with each other.

We are thankful for the immense contributions of the Elders on Campus.



Celebrating Our Graduates

Each spring, Yukon University is honoured to gather together as a community to celebrate the incredible achievements of our students.

A sign of our growth, our 2026 Convocation moved to Takhini Arena, a larger venue to accommodate our nearly a thousand attendees, including graduates, faculty, staff, family, friends, and community supporters.

233

2025-26 Graduates

from Certificate, Diploma,
Bachelor, and Master programs

47

Indigenous Grads



13%

Increase from 2024-25

206 2024-25 Graduates

29 2024-25 Indigenous Grads

Alumni Network

At Convocation 2025, Yukon University began inviting our graduates to join our Alumni Network.

As we continue to grow as an institution, it's important for us to maintain strong relationships with our grads, building culture and community that extends beyond their time of study, and encouraging opportunities to stay involved and engaged with Yukon University.

Honorary degrees

Last year, we initiated a pause on and review of our Honorary Credential policy in order to realize a goal within our Reconciliation Framework to better respect, honour, and encourage nominations from Yukon First Nations.

The process of review and revision is underway in collaboration with Yukon First Nations, with the program expected to return for Convocation 2027.

Previous honorary degree recipients include:

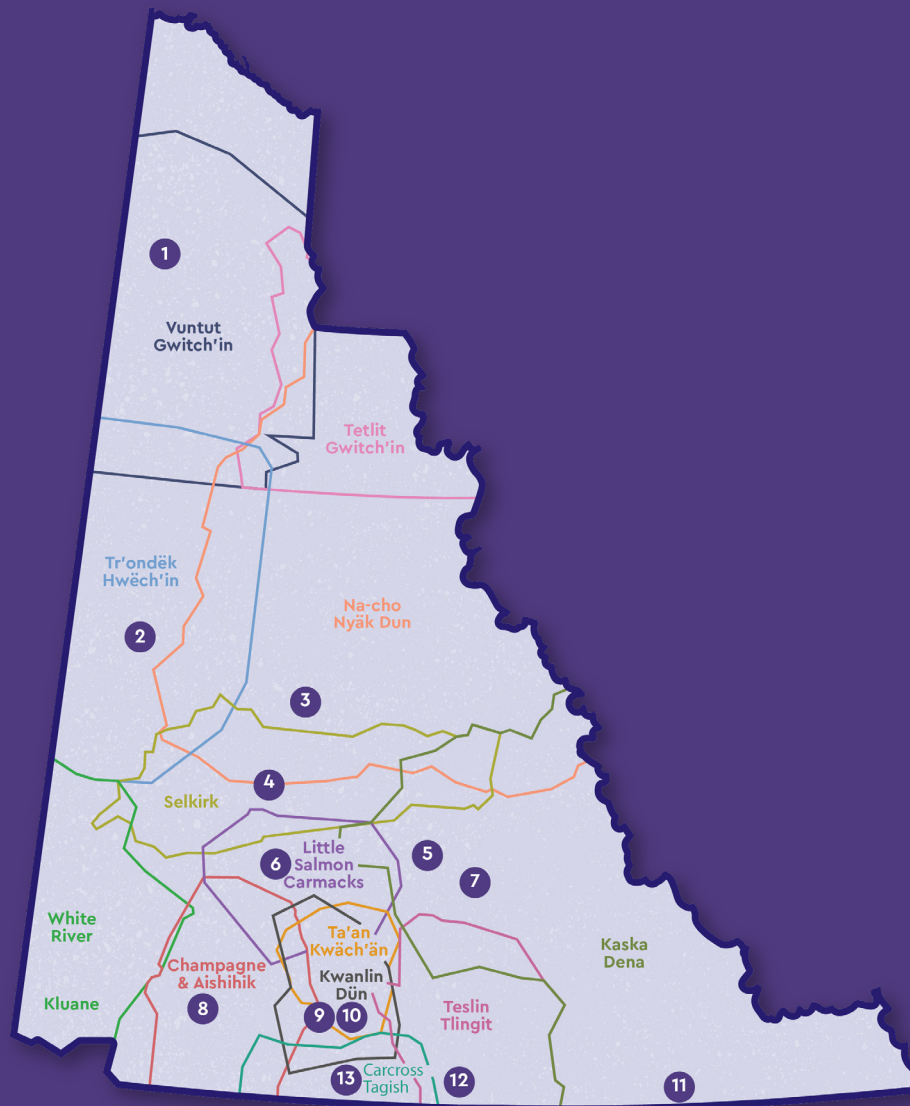
- **Däkwäül Mary Jane Jim, Doctor of Arts (2025)**
- **Stanley Njootli Sr., Doctor of Arts (2024)**
- **Ivan Coyote, Doctor of Arts (2023)**
- **Colleen James (2022)**
- **Mary Jane Moses (2022)**
- **Lawrence David Joe – Kätänayeátá (2021)**
- **Rolf Hougen (2021)**
- **Dave Joe – Daka (2020)**
- **Audrey McLaughlin (2020)**



Community Campuses

Yukon University has 12 community campuses across the territory, delivering education and training programs guided by the needs of those communities and improving access to education.





- 1 **Alice Frost Community Campus, YukonU Old Crow** is within the Traditional Territory of the Vuntut Gwitchin.
- 2 **Tr'odëk Hätr'unohtän Zho, YukonU Dawson City** is within the Traditional Territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- 3 **YukonU Mayo** is within the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.
- 4 **Hets'edän KÚ', YukonU Pelly Crossing** is within the Traditional Territory of the Selkirk First Nation.
- 5 **YukonU Faro** is within the Traditional Territory of the Kaska Dena.
- 6 **Dän Hänädän K'enjik, YukonU Carmacks** is within the Traditional Territory of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- 7 **Dena Cho Kê'endj, YukonU Ross River** is within the Traditional Territory of the Kaska Dena.
- 8 **Dakwäkäda Dän Kenädän Yū, YukonU Haines Junction** is within the Traditional Territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.
- 9 **Ayamdigut Campus, YukonU Whitehorse** is within the Traditional Territory of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation.
- 10 YukonU also has a small campus in the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.
- 11 **YukonU Watson Lake** is within the Traditional Territory of the Kaska Dena.
- 12 **Yà Khusgé Dàkahídi, YukonU Teslin** is within the Traditional Territory of the Teslin Tlingit Council.
- 13 **YukonU Carcross** is within the Traditional Territory of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation.

School of Visual Arts

Tr'odëk Hätr'unohtän Zho | Dawson City

Located in Dawson City, SOVA is a school within the Faculty of Applied Arts.



Print & publishing partnership

Working with Parks Canada, this course brings SOVA students into the historic Dawson Daily News Building, where they engage with print media in the context of historic processes, including letter press printing, handsetting type, poster making, and book-making techniques.

Land-based orientation

First Nations Culture instructor Jackie Olsen led a studio course on the land for SOVA students as part of their Fall 2025 orientation, welcoming them and helping connect them to the land.

Snow-shoe making

In February, Bella and William Charlie from Fort McPherson taught traditional snow-shoe making to students at SOVA, the Bridging Program and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens.

Students were joined by Elder, including Allan Benjamin from Old Crow, to learn the traditional technique.

Community-Embedded Faculty and Staff

Dän Hänádän K'enjik | Carmacks Alice Frost Community Campus | Old Crow
Hets'edän Kú | Pelly Crossing Yà Khusgé Dàkahídi | Teslin YukonU Watson Lake

From Teslin, instructor/coordinator Gord Curran delivered *Community and Economic Development*, a distance-accessible course that supports Business Studies and First Nations Governance credit programs. In 2025–26, the course also supported students in Environmental Studies.

University Access Pathway courses in English and math were offered in Watson Lake by Dr. Anne Greenwood, a School of Social Sciences and Humanities instructor based out of that campus.

The School of Indigenous Governance also had faculty in three other communities in 2025–26: Nicole Rondeau in Carmacks, Paul McCarney in Old Crow, and David Silas in Pelly Crossing. Community-accessible learning is crucial to the Indigenous Governance program, and ensures perspectives that consider rural communities while also providing students in those communities in-person support without needing to come to the Ayamdigut campus in Whitehorse.



STEAM & Trades Facilitators

Tr'odëk Hätr'unohtän Zho | Dawson City Dakwäkäda Dän Kenädän Yū
| Haines Junction Dena Cho Kê'endj | Ross River YukonU Carcross
YukonU Mayo YukonU Watson Lake

Yukon University engages local facilitators in Yukon communities to deliver Youth STEAM and Trades programming through camps, workshops, and other events. In 2025–26, we hired **13 community facilitators across 6 Yukon communities.**

In Watson Lake, two high schoolers hired to assist with afterschool programming received mentorship from YukonU staff and began running their own independent programs at the community library.

Community Retraining of Workers

Dena Cho Kê'endj | Ross River Yà Khusgé Dàkahídi | Teslin YukonU Faro YukonU Mayo

The Community Retraining of Workers (CROW) project was designed to address challenges caused by mass layoffs at Victoria Gold's Eagle Gold Mine near Mayo, Yukon. Yukon University received \$1 million in funding support from Employment and Social Development Canada – part of the \$50 million Canada Retraining and Opportunities Initiative.

In partnership with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, our Mayo campus delivered a safety and trades "sampler", designed to introduce participants to various trades and provide introductory certifications including FoodSafe, First Aid, WHMIS, Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG), and chainsaw safety.

In Teslin, the program funded a new 15-week Clerical Skills program, meeting a demand in communities and from local partners for skilled administrative professionals.

In Faro and Ross River, delivery of a focused Environmental Monitoring program enabled students to receive credit for the first two modules of YukonU's Environmental Monitoring certificate program.



Community-Based Bridging Program

Tr'ondëk Hätr'unohtän Zho | Dawson City

Yukon University was proud to partner with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to develop and launch a new 12-month bridging program that began in January 2026.

Rooted in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values and guided by Elders, mentors, and knowledge holders, the program is designed to support learners pursuing personal, educational, professional, cultural, and artistic goals in a culturally grounded and supportive environment.

The program curriculum is dynamic, shaped by the interests and needs of the cohort itself, to ensure that learning remains relevant and meaningful. Examples of training and educational pathways include:

High school equivalency

Financial literacy

Driver's licence

Survival skills on the land

We are proud of our ongoing partnership with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and are committed to continuing to find new and innovative ways of enhancing community education and addressing the needs of Yukon First Nations communities.

Empowering Traditions

Alice Frost Community Campus | Old Crow
YukonU Watson Lake

Dakwäkäda Dän Kenädän Yū | Haines Junction

Funded by the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor), Empowering Traditions brings hands-on traditional skills programs to communities, as identified by local Yukon First Nations.

This year in Haines Junction, learners participated in the Make It Real Arts Business support program. Additionally, the campus supported a traditional arts program in Burwash Landing, hiring a local instructor. Old Crow delivered a culturally-based garment making program. In Watson Lake, this initiative supported the return of the Yukon First Nations Arts Program.

Over the course of this three-year initiative, Empowering Traditions aims to deliver Yukon First Nations cultural programming to each community campuses.

Organizational Growth

This year, YukonU began an exciting new phase of growth, expanding both literally through a major capital project and figuratively through our growing position in the territory and the national and international stage.





Our People

YukonU is proud to be a major employer in the Yukon, and for the dedicated work of our faculty and staff.

A new Collective Agreement

In March, the university of employee union ratified a new three-year collective agreement, spanning a term of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027.

This agreement includes a **12.75% wage increase for staff**, a **10.75% increase for faculty**, and raises the stipend for sessional instructors.

Our Interim President

Yukon University said goodbye to former President, Dr. Lesley Brown, in 2025. The Board thanks Dr. Brown for her service and contributions during the organization's early years as a university.

We are honoured to have **Dr. Shelagh Rowles as Interim President and Vice-Chancellor**, leading YukonU during a time of tremendous growth while the Board of Governors conducts a search for the next President.

783

Employees

424

Full-Time
Equivalent

359

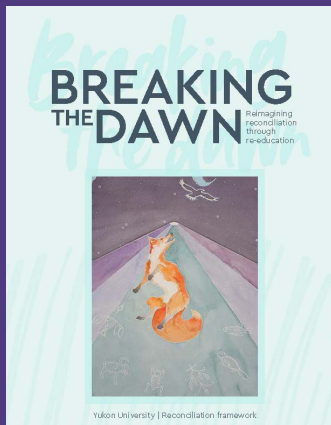
Casual,
Contract,
or Student



After that, all the animals gathered in one place and asked each other how they could change this world, because they were all tired of living in this constant darkness. They had never seen any light, it was always dark.

"What can we do to make it be daylight during the day and dark only at night?"

Breaking the Dawn, 2024, p. 6.



Recruiting a new Vice-President

Crucial to Yukon University's efforts to advance Reconciliation was the **recruitment of a new Vice-President, Reconciliation**. This position, currently filled on an interim basis, will provide leadership to YukonU's First Nations Initiatives department, and serve as a vital member of the senior leadership team in guiding and ensuring the goals and accountabilities set out in *Breaking the Dawn* – our Reconciliation framework – are met.

The recruitment and hiring process for this position began this past year, and YukonU is happy to report that **following the conclusion of the 2025–26 fiscal year, Alexia McKinnon was hired for the role.**

Alexia is a Citizen of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations bringing decades of distinguished work in decolonization, Indigenization, and Truth and Reconciliation across academia, arts, the energy sector, and philanthropy.

We want our children to go to school in the Yukon... We feel that there should be a University in the Yukon.

Together Today for our Children Tomorrow, 1973, p. 21.

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

This year, Yukon University made the decision to close Innovation & Entrepreneurship, formerly located at Northlight Innovation in downtown Whitehorse.

This decision was part of a strategic shift toward more student-centred and faculty-aligned initiatives, as well as changing priorities from funders. YukonU recognizes the contributions of the staff and innovators who have been supported by this program, and our approach to this transition ensures continuing support for IncubateNorth projects through 2027.

On the international stage

YukonU faculty conducted research and academic work on the international stage this past year, including:

Circumpolar study tour

Through the University of the Arctic's north2north exchange program, Dr. Rebecca Major and Hillarie Zimmerman from the School of Indigenous Governance conducted a study tour to the Sápmi region of Northern Norway and Finland.

International Council on Large Electric Systems

Dr. Michael Ross, Industrial Research Chair in Northern Energy Innovation at Yukon University, is a member of the International Council on Large Electric Systems, bringing the Yukon's voice to a worldwide network of energy research.

Democracy R&D conference

Dr. Sara McPhee-Knowles and Dr. Christoph Niessen from the University of Antwerp/UC Louvain led a workshop on citizens' assemblies in small population contexts at the Democracy R&D international conference in Brussels, Belgium in October 2025.

UArctic Congress

Yukon University prepared to send a delegation of ten faculty, students, and professionals to the University of the Arctic Congress in the Faroe Islands, where they presented and participated in discussions of food security, community health, Indigenous youth engagement, and more. **The Congress took place in May 2026.**

EleV

This program funds programs and initiatives designed to reduce barriers, build capacity, and support Indigenous learners and the Yukon First Nations education ecosystem.

Pilot programs and experimentation

What support from EleV means for programming is the freedom to experiment, piloting new models and approaches to delivering education.

A perfect example is the Educational Assistant and Community Safety Guardians micro-credential programs. Establishing a micro-credential policy allowed the development of these programs alongside Elders and government or community partners, which led to innovations in program scheduling and completion pathways that recognize unique community needs and circumstances.

A large, stylized teal graphic of the text '\$5M'.

This year the Mastercard Foundation gifted five million to further support transformational work.

Programs supported by EleV include:

Micro-credential Programs

Illuminating Worldviews

Indigenous Student Mentoring

Education Ecosystem Project

University Access Pathways

Post-Secondary Indigenous Grad

Dawson City Bridging Program

Degree Development Elders Circles

Whitehorse Correctional Centre Campus

Youth STEAM and Trades in Communities

Breaking the Dawn Reconciliation Framework



The Polaris Project

Our new science building embodies our commitment to Reconciliation in action.

Thanks to the generous investments of the Governments of Canada and Yukon, this year we broke ground on our new science building – the first major capital project undertaken as Yukon University.

With major construction well underway, the dream and promise of what this building will be is becoming more real every day.

The building will add five lab spaces and four multi-use classrooms, expanding our teaching and research capacity and paving the way for the growth and development of our programs and courses.

More significantly, Polaris represents our structural commitment to Reconciliation and the Indigenization of education. Throughout the process, our Yukon First Nations have been integral to the conception and development of this project, which includes an outdoor classroom, ceremony room, and knowledge-sharing spaces – building culturally dignified and inclusive spaces for the cocreation and sharing of knowledge.

The result is a building that engages in telling stories of Yukon First Nations science, promotes Indigenous learning and ways of knowing, and encourages a synthesis of worldviews.

Polaris is on track to open in Fall 2027.

Polaris... What's inside?

2 Wet labs

2 Dry labs

Multi-purpose
research lab

4 Multi-use
classrooms

8 Faculty/staff
offices

Outdoor classroom

Ceremony room

Knowledge-sharing
space

Collection room

Informal gathering,
social, and study
spaces

Outdoor classroom

Reinforcing the importance of learning in connection to the land, the inclusion of an outdoor classroom will make a core principle of Indigenous ways of knowing and doing a structural reality for Yukon University students.

Ceremony & knowledge-sharing

Recognizing and embracing the significant role of ceremony in Indigenous ways of sharing knowledge, and acknowledging the barriers traditional academic and educational spaces present to Indigenous teachers and students, the new science building incorporates purpose-built physical space that allows for traditional ceremony and knowledge-sharing as part of how we engage with learning and discoveries.

Flexible learning spaces & commons

Flexibility and adaptability allow for multi-use classroom spaces that can accommodate different styles of teaching and learning, functional shared lab space for researchers, and room to gather, study, and engage faculty, students, and guests.

Looking ahead

Even as work continues on the initial stage of the Polaris Project, we are looking to the future and planning for Phase 2, which would add a large lecture hall and gathering space to enhance our capacity for academic and research programming and events.

Yukon University Foundation

The Yukon University Foundation supports the ongoing growth and success of YukonU, fostering investment in our students and the important work we do.

Gordon Foundation

This year, The Gordon Foundation announced a five-year \$2.5 million investment in Indigenous Governance research. The funding specifically establishes the Indigenous Water Governance Research Chair position at Yukon University, and the development and delivery of a policy and leadership program in partnership with Yukon First Nations.

Students awards

The Yukon University Foundation is proud to support YukonU students through student awards.

\$43,000

**Contributed to
Student Awards**

49

**Students
Supported**

45

**Diverse
Awards**





Youth at YukonU

We encourage the spirit of life-long learning, and a wide range of Yukon University programs aim to instill that spirit early, through camps, workshops, research, dual credit, and other opportunities for Yukon youth.



Supporting education for all Yukon learners

Understanding how it supports our mission of accessible post-secondary education, Yukon University works hard to support and enhance education overall in the territory.

Dual Credit programs allow Yukon secondary students to take post-secondary courses while in high school, allowing Grade 11 and 12 students up to a total of 6 credits transferable to their post-secondary institution of choice, or a full pre-apprenticeship certificate program.

Through **University Access Pathways**, we support Yukon learners who are missing certain prerequisite requirements (such as English, math and science) for post-secondary study, providing a pathway for continued learning.

Ongoing cooperation with the Government of Yukon's Department of Education helps bring **Youth STEAM and Trades** programming into Yukon classrooms, and likewise we welcome multiple classes per year to tour our facilities, see demonstrations, and learn how Yukon University can support their post-secondary goals.

YSPOR Youth

The Yukon Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (YSPOR) supports opportunities for youth through the Junior Researcher and Trainee programs.

In 2025–26, 24 youth across both programs worked as Junior Researchers, Project Officers, Research Assistants, and summer and STEP students, supporting and in many cases leading and co-leading dozens of research activities in six Yukon communities.



Youth STEAM & Trades

We deliver programs year-round to Yukon youth of all ages as well as youth-serving organizations, including camps, workshops, school programs, professional development, and research outreach.

Working together

The Youth STEAM & Trades team cultivates a large number of partnerships in order to develop and deliver a wide variety of programming to thousands of youth across the territory.

In 2025–26, we partnered with 65 youth-serving organizations, municipalities, territorial and federal government partners, and First Nations governments.

Not only are these partnerships crucial to how we co-create or co-develop programming, they are also important to ensure that the programs remain barrier free. All programs delivered in communities are completely free, and within Whitehorse, our partners at the Multicultural Centre of the Yukon, the Whitehorse Public Library, Council of Yukon First Nations Cultural Connections Team and more make these programs available for youth who may not otherwise be able to participate.

Evaluating success

This year, we developed a new **Learning & Curriculum Evaluation Framework** Working with the Teaching & Learning department, this new tool helps prioritize connection to place and emphasizes locally developed materials.



2025–26 community programs include:

Carcross Saturday Science Club

Hugely popular winter and spring program, engaging local youth in STEAM activities.

Little Salmon/Carmacks STEAM/Heritage land camps

Co-developed with Yukon Government Heritage and Recreation departments, involving a Carleton University forest regeneration researcher.

Faro small engines workshop

Full 2-week training course for youth grades 8+, who obtained school credit for completing this intensive.

Dawson welding/carpentry afterschool program

In partnership with Hätr'unohtän Zho (Robert Service School), youth grades 9+ learned from a ticketed welder and we exposed to future career opportunities.

3,800

Youth enrolment in STEAM programs throughout the year

STEAM & Trades in Communities

14 Yukon Communities

Carcross

Carmacks

Dawson City

Faro

Haines Junction

Lower Post

Marsh Lake

Mayo

Mount Lorne

Old Crow

Pelly Crossing

Ross River

Teslin

Watson Lake

*Communities without a YukonU campus

Appendices

Data Note: Fiscal year 2025–26 runs from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

This annual report covers programs and courses occurring during the following academic semesters: Spring/Summer 2025 (May-August 2025), Fall 2025 (Sept-Dec 2025) and Winter 2026 (Jan-April 2026).

Appendix A

Student Data

Student data in this report is aligned with the fiscal year, which runs from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. For data aligned with the academic year (September start), please contact the Office of the Registrar.

Student demographics

This table describes demographic characteristics of credit student from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Indigenous student data is based on self-identification. Full-time learners represent individual people, not a full-time equivalent statistic.

Demographics	Full-time	Part-time	All credit
Indigenous	234	90	324
Domestic, non-Indigenous	471	334	805
International	148	21	169
Total	853	445	1298

Enrolment data

In the 2025–26 fiscal year, 770.40 full-time equivalent students were enrolled in credit and trades courses*.

Program Type	Domestic, Indigenous	Domestic, non-Indigenous**	International	Total
Certificates	41.2	78.8	11.3	131.3
Diplomas	46.7	106.0	112.9	265.6
Degrees	36.2	104.1	4.4	144.7
Apprenticeship Trades	9.0	87.0	0.0	96.0
Pre-Apprenticeship Trades	11.0	33.0	0.0	44.0
Academic and skill development	35.5	17.2	0.1	52.8
Open studies	5.5	30.6	0.0	36.1
Total credit programming	185.1	446.6	128.7	770.4

*Note: A full-time equivalent (FTE) is equal to 30 credits in academic programming, or enrolment in a Trades or Culinary Arts program.

**Note: Domestic, non-Indigenous may include some Indigenous students who have chosen not to self-identify.

Continuing studies registration

In the 2025–26 fiscal year, **Continuing Studies** served **9,856 learners**.

International student enrolment

In the 2025–26 fiscal year, **169 international students** were enrolled, amounting to **13% of total enrolment**.

Student outcomes

Yukon University students earned **104 certificates, 82 diplomas, and 47 degrees** in the 2025–26 fiscal year.

Demographics	Certificates	Diplomas	Degrees	Total
Indigenous	21	11	15	47
Domestic, non-Indigenous*	57	23	32	112
International	26	48	0	74
Total	104	82	47	233

*Note: Domestic, non-Indigenous may include some Indigenous students who have chosen not to self-identify.

Community campus students

In the fiscal year from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026:

106

students took credit courses across community campuses.

811*

students took credit courses that were offered in an online format.

*Note: These numbers include blended and hyflex learning, where online and classroom delivery are combined within a course.

53

Credit Courses
Across Community Campuses

131

Credit and Non-Credit Courses
Offered distance delivery
(including blended and hyflex learning)

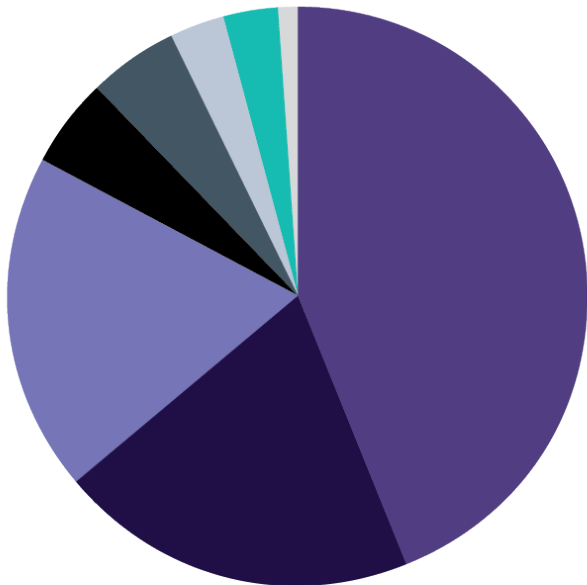
143

Non-Credit Courses
Across Community Campuses
(includes each course offered at each campus)

Appendix B

Consolidated Financials

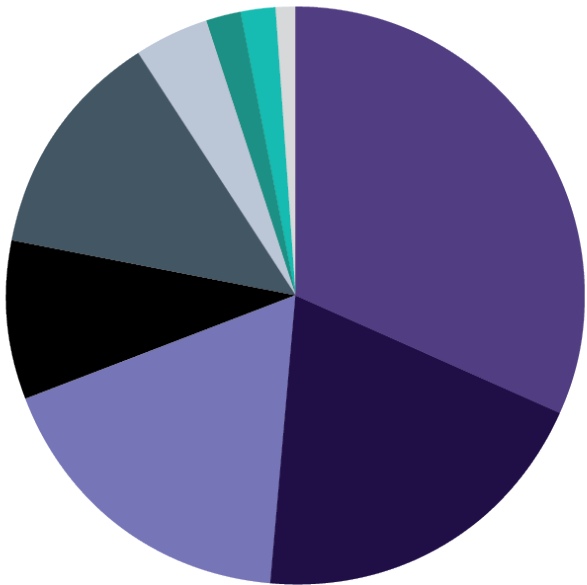
The charts and tables reflect the consolidated financial results of Yukon University and Yukon University Foundation. A copy of the full financial statements, including the audit opinion, is available at YukonU.ca/about-us/publications-plans-reports



Revenues 2025-26

- 44% Contributions core funding, Government of Yukon
- 20% Contributions, non-core, Government of Yukon
- 19% Other contributions
- 5% Tuition
- 3% Miscellaneous income*
- 5% Contracts
- 3% Sales, rentals, and fees
- 1% Fundraising and donations revenue

*Miscellaneous income includes amortization of deferred capital contributions and interest income.
**Miscellaneous expenses includes amortization of capital assets.



Expenses 2025-26

- 32% Direct instruction
- 20% Direct instructional support
- 18% General administration
- 9% Services received without charge
- 13% Research
- 4% Facility services and utilities
- 2% Cost of sales
- 2% Miscellaneous**
- <1% Student assistance and scholarships

Summary of consolidated financial results

Revenues	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2025
Contributions core funding, Government of Yukon	30,360,079	27,766,879
Contributions, non-core, Government of Yukon	13,912,315	12,813,816
Other contributions	13,515,433	11,754,997
Tuition	3,705,877	3,436,694
Miscellaneous income	2,235,715	1,892,766
Contacts	3,347,798	2,970,943
Sales, rentals, and fees	1,774,388	2,045,483
Fundraising and donation revenue	392,959	223,412
	69,244,564	62,914,990

Expenses	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2025
Direct instructions	21,158,634	16,651,406
Direct instructional support	13,123,299	10,176,160
General administration	12,312,197	11,279,783
Services received without charge	6,020,450	5,623,326
Research	8,825,902	8,466,673
Facility services and utilities	2,613,153	2,881,066
Cost of sales	1,392,552	1,341,490
Miscellaneous	1,560,644	1,622,248
Student assistance and scholarships	238,016	155,109
	67,244,847	58,197,261

Changes in net assets	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2025
Total surplus of revenues over expenses	1,999,717	4,717,729
Endowment contributions/(disbursement)	(141,995)	15,089
Remeasurement gains/(losses)	128,171	(514,386)
Net gain on investments	161,719	561,574
Net assets, beginning of year	47,826,965	43,046,959
Transfer (to)/from deferred liabilities	70,369	–
Net assets, end of year	50,004,946	47,826,965

Net assets	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2025
Invested in capital assets	3,072,031	3,505,429
Externally restricted endowments	5,784,101	5,694,008
Internally restricted pension	38,509,600	37,914,800
Interanlly restricted capital assets	3,207,272	1,883,555
Unrestricted	8,290	(506,308)
	50,581,294	48,491,484
Accumulated remeasurement gains/(losses)	(536,348)	(664,519)
Total net assets	50,044,946	47,826,965



