

# CNIM update

January 2026

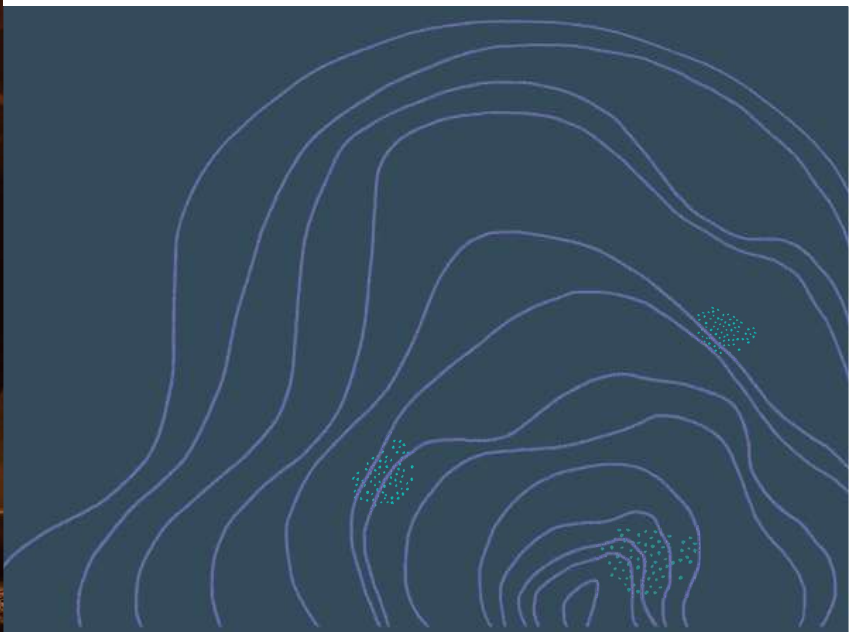
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## At a glance

- Heavy Equipment Technician
- Heavy Equipment Operator Training
- Commercial Driving
- Safety and Industrial Training
- Earth Sciences
- Environmental Monitoring Certificate



# CNIM Update - January 2026



## Heavy Equipment Technician

The 2025/26 HET pre-apprentice program, under Mack Smith, concluded January 16, with 11 students prepared to challenge the Yukon Level 1 exam. This cohort is eager to parlay their new skills into employment, with 1 graduate already hired by a local contractor.

## Heavy Equipment Operator Training

At the end of November, operators completed Skid Steer and Mini Excavator training, which included both classroom instruction and hands-on practical evaluation. The training focused on safe operation, equipment limitations, pre-use inspections, hazard awareness, and site-specific controls.

As per our agreement with Yukon Government, our courses have been taking place at the Haeckel Hill gravel pit for practical training. This site provided operators with real-world operating conditions, including uneven terrain, slopes, material handling, and traffic awareness. Site-specific hazards and safe operating procedures for the gravel pit were reviewed and reinforced during the training.



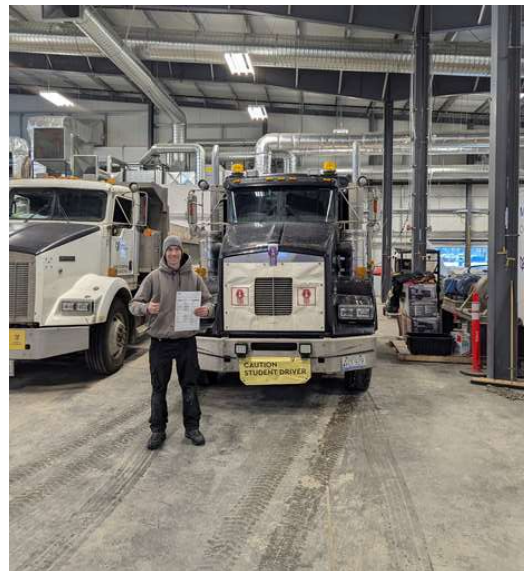
*Skid steer students completing training at Haeckel Hill gravel pit*

# CNIM Update - January 2026

## Commercial Driver Training

The commercial driving instructors continued to train students through the winter weather for Air Brake Endorsement and Class 3 & 4 Theory in Watson Lake. As December approached, our instructors completed in-cab training and road tests for students from the Ross River community. In total, 6 Ross River students completed in-cab training, with 2 successfully passing their road tests. CNIM anticipates the return of commercial driving programming to Ross River for continued driving practice and retesting.

In-cab training in Whitehorse continued through the month of December, with 1 student passing all class 1 courses, and 3 students completing the full suite of Class 3 training by early January. Yukon's remarkably cold weather in December caused training delays, with preparation for road tests rescheduled for January.



***Student, Shawn Ladret, obtained his Class 3 unrestricted licence in December***

# CNIM Update - January 2026



## Commercial Driving Results

**Air Brake  
Endorsement  
24 students**

**Class 4, 3 & 1  
Theory:  
16 students**

**Class 3 in-cab  
training:  
3 students**

**Class 1 in-cab  
training  
1 student**

**Road Tests  
8 students**

**Simulator Training  
2 students**

# CNIM Update - January 2026

## Safety and Industrial Training

This Fall, CNIM sent Tomasz Wozniak, HEO instructor, to Airdrie, Alberta, to complete 3M's Confined Space Entry and Fall Protection instructor courses. In January, Tomasz delivered his first Confined Space Entry and Fall Protection courses in Mayo, Yukon. Additionally, he supported students of an ESDC-funded Community Retraining of Workers (CROW) program with their online WHMIS courses.

### Student Numbers May 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 - January 30<sup>th</sup> 2026



*Instructor, Tomasz Wozniak (second from right) and students from the Community Retraining of Workers (CROW) program*



*Confined Space Entry training in Mayo (CROW program) Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)*

**The winter 2026 semester is off to a successful start with high enrollments in courses. There are currently 16 Earth Sciences majors active in the program, and an impressive number of students taking Earth Sciences courses as elective credit.**

Winter courses that are currently being offered include:

- Earth Systems: Landscapes and Natural Hazards (GEOG 102); lecture taught by Mary Samolczyk (6 students)
- Hydrogeology (GEOL 301); lecture and lab taught by Mary Samolczyk (6 students)
- Historical Geology (GEOL 106); lecture and lab taught by Dr. Chad Morgan (8 students)
- Earth Through Time (GEOL 108); online course (lecture only) taught by Dr. Chad Morgan (37 students)
- Introduction to the Mineral Exploration and Mining Industries (GEOL 112); lecture taught by Dr. Chad Morgan (30 students)
- Geochemistry (GEOL 211); lecture and lab taught by Dr. Joel Cubley (7 students)
- Geophysics (GEOL 213); lecture and lab taught by Dr. Joel Cubley (4 students)

This semester is shaping up to be busy, with many guest speakers and experiential activities planned. Hecla Mining Company, Snowline Gold Corp., and SLR Consulting are planning visits to speak with our students and talk about employment opportunities. In addition, representatives from Yukon Government's Water Resources Branch, the Yukon Geologic Survey, ALS Environmental and CIRNAC Faro Mine Remediation have volunteered their time to participate in lectures and course projects. These experiences are invaluable for our students, and we are grateful for the external government and industry support.

Faculty are active in attending both industry and academic conferences this year. They will attend AME BC Roundup, GAC-MAC 2026, and the Cordilleran Tectonics Workshop. We would also like to recognize the generous support of Snowline Gold Corp., who sponsored the registration fees of Earth Sciences students at the Yukon Geoscience Forum in November 2025. This was a foundational experience for students where they attended both talks and the trade show and left the conference excited about future work opportunities.



*First-year Earth Sciences students meeting with Snowline Gold Corp., the student sponsor, at the Yukon Geoscience Forum 2025.*



*Second-year Earth Sciences students at the Yukon Geoscience Forum 2025.*

# Environmental Monitoring Certificate

The Environmental Monitoring Certificate program's first course will begin in the community of Mayo in January 2026. Instructor Scott Keesey will be launching this introductory course to a new cohort of environmental monitoring students, as well as students from the ESDC-funded Community Retraining of Workers (CROW) program. This collaboration with the Mayo campus will diversify student enrollment and enrich the CROW program with environmental monitoring content.

The ENVM team has brought in a new student coach, Shirley Dawson. Shirley joined our team in late December and will be continuing with the 2025-2027 cohort of students.



*Left to right: Student Coach, Shirley Dawson and students, Joy Silverfox, Jeffery Jonathan, Robin Kirk & Dustin Gull in Mayo, YT, January 2026.*

# General Updates

- Commercial driving instructor, Trevor Sinclair will be offering the first Class 2 Theory course in February. Class 2 simulator training will follow in April.



- CNIM staff and YukonU's Luna mascot participated in the City of Whitehorse's annual Christmas parade. A highly decorated Kenworth tractor and pilot car showcased Yukon University and commercial driver training.

- HEO instructor, Tomasz Wozniak, completed fall protection instructor training in Alberta in December. He is now certified to train students in Fall Protection courses, expanding the potential offering of industrial safety courses.



- City of Whitehorse's transit and maintenance division representatives toured CNIM in December with a keen interest in working with Yukon University to access simulators for commercial driver training.



- In gratitude for a generous donation from Castle Rock Enterprises Ltd. to Yukon University, CNIM has wrapped the gifted dry van trailer, highlighting the valuable partnership.

