

# CNIM update

May 2025

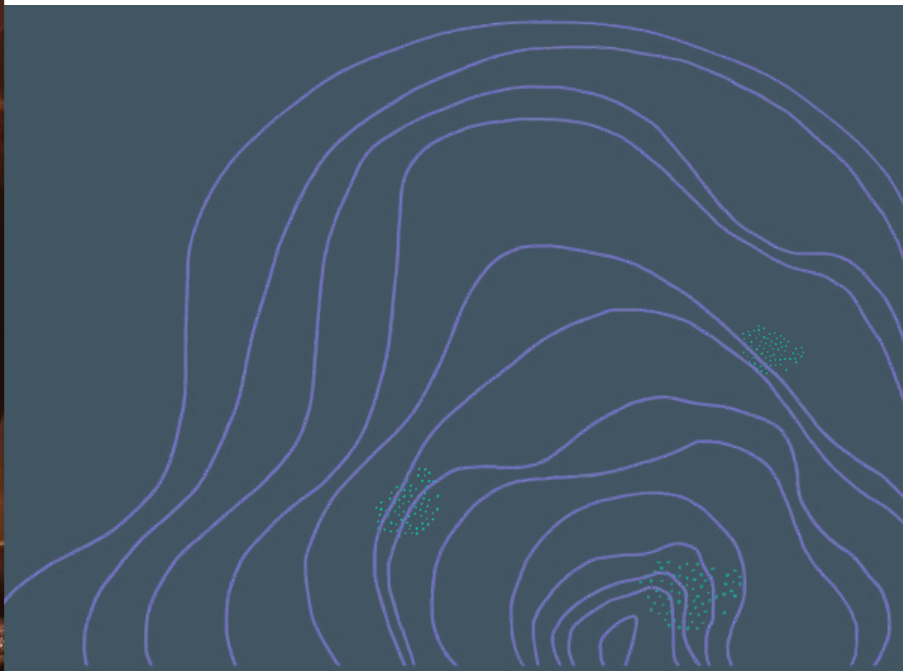
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## At a glance

- Heavy Equipment Technician
- Heavy Equipment Rural Operator Training
- Safety and Industrial Training
- Class 1, 3 and Short Courses
- Industrial Safety Training
- Earth Sciences
- Environmental Monitoring Certificate
- Northern Mine Remediation



# CNIM update - May 2025



## Heavy Equipment Technician

A total of 7 Heavy Equipment Technician pre-apprenticeship students completed their studies in February 2025 and challenged the Level 1 apprentice exam with mixed results. The Level 3 intake of 9 apprentices commenced in early March and will be completed on May 9th. Looking into the year ahead, the 2025/2026 pre-apprentice intake has been scheduled to align with the secondary school calendar. This allows YG students to seamlessly enter the dual credit stream; building apprentice mechanics as quickly as possible!

## Heavy Equipment Rural Operator (H.E.R.O) and Simulator Training

As of March 2025, the CNIM department has introduced a new H.E.R.O Instructor to the team. Tomasz Wozniak is currently focusing on creating a safety oriented curriculum for courses such as Heavy Trailer Endorsement Training and Skid Steer Loader Operator Training. The courses will be available beginning in June 2025, and offer light theory, simulator training and practical in-cab training (in collaboration with industry partners). The CNIM team are working towards a potential pilot project in the community of Carmacks in July of 2025.

## Safety and Industrial Training

The Safety and Industrial Training team has officially integrated into CNIM, transitioning from its previous placement within Continuing Education. Between April 1st and May 1st, we successfully conducted ten courses, training a total of 76 individuals. This included open enrollment courses in Whitehorse, a week of training at our Carmacks Campus, and another training week at our Mayo Campus. Additionally, our instructor has become actively involved in CNIM's driver training program, providing in-cab training and road test preparation.

As the mining season commences, the demand for safety training has significantly increased. Throughout May, our team will be traveling to Dawson and Mayo to offer open enrollment courses at community campuses, as well as contract training for private mine sites. With the majority of our 2025 schedule fully booked, we look forward to collaborating with our clients to ensure all training needs are met.

# CNIM update - May 2025

## Class 3, Class 1, and Air Brakes Endorsement

The winter semester for commercial driving appeared to be our busiest season yet. Students were reaching out in early January regarding the full suite of courses. Particularly, our in-cab training became quickly overbooked. Our instructors were ready and willing to provide the additional students the training, as industry prepares for their summer projects. The CNIM team have discussed the idea to include pre-trip inspections training as a mandatory course in the sequence of Class 3 and Class 1 training. This was brought to light when hearing feedback that students would like more prep time on their pre-trip inspections portion of their road exam.

In February and March 2025, CNIM staff collaborated with Cobalt Construction, Department of Economic Development and Selkirk First Nation to provide Air Brake Endorsement, Class 3 Theory (and exam), Simulator training and In-Cab training (and road exam) all within a month long period in Pelly Crossing, YT. In total, 6 students completed and passed all Class 3 training with Yukon U instructors. The students went on to complete and pass their road exams with Yukon Government Department of Motor Vehicles examiner, in Mayo, YT. This effort was a great success and proved that northern communities such as Pelly Crossing are in need of local commercial drivers.



# CNIM update - May 2025

**Air Brakes:**  
76 students

**Class 3 In-Cab:**  
13 students

**Class 3/1 Theory:**  
37 students

**Class 1 Road Test:**  
3 students completed  
and passed

**Class 3 Road Test:**  
9 students completed  
and passed

**Class 3/1 Simulator  
Training:**  
17 students



Class 3 student, Kobe Alexie  
completed and passed his road test in  
April 2025



Class 1 student, Drew Montgomery  
completed and passed his road test in  
March 2025

The **Earth Sciences Program** has finished a successful winter semester, with 17 Earth Sciences majors active in the program. Of the 6 students completing their studies at YukonU this year, 3 are continuing their studies to obtain B.Sc. degrees (Memorial University, University of Victoria, Vancouver Island University (VIU)). Easy transfer pathways, including block transfer agreements with VIU and Acadia University, provide northern students with an option to complete their degree in geoscience and apply for P. Geo designation.

This semester Earth Sciences faculty taught seven courses. Two of these courses, Earth Through Time and Introduction to Mineral Exploration and Mining, were offered to non-majors and were well attended with 42 students. Experiential learning remained a focus of the program. Students in Geophysics learned how to conduct and analyze data from different types of surveys, including electromagnetic, magnetic, and GPR. Physical Geography students collected snow survey data in partnership with researchers at the YukonU Research Centre. In Historical Geology, students worked with our growing suite of fossil specimens. Second-year Earth Sciences students are currently completing their culminating field course on Quadra Island, BC, in collaboration with students from Vancouver Island University. In this course, they will build on the fundamentals of geology fieldwork and perform digital bedrock mapping and analyses.

Program faculty have active research programs in subjects including groundwater chemistry and water-rock interactions, trilobite diversity and sedimentary stratigraphy, and regional tectonics. The Yukon Virtual Geology project ([www.yukonu.ca/virtualgeology](http://www.yukonu.ca/virtualgeology)), funded by GEM-GeoNorth until 2027, is an ongoing outreach initiative within the department that highlights the territory's geology in virtual field experiences that are publicly accessible. Faculty member, Dr. C. Morgan, presented his work on trilobites to the public in March 2025 as a part of the Long Ago Yukon Speaker Series.

## Earth Sciences continued



*Earth Sciences faculty present Niona Kyle-Kahr with a 2025 GAC-PDAC Logan Student Prize. Niona is a 2025 Earth Sciences graduate at YukonU and is recognized for her exemplary leadership qualities and aptitude in field techniques.*



*Students in GEOL 213 (Geophysics) conduct a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey to image the water table and assess whether McIntyre Creek is a gaining or losing stream during the winter months.*



*Students in GEOL 211 (Geochemistry) learn about mineral refining using aqua regia in the Earth Sciences laboratory.*

## Environmental Monitoring Certificate

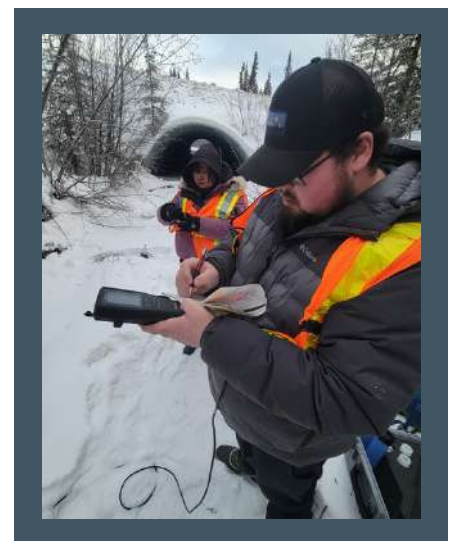
The **Environmental Monitoring Certificate Program** has had a busy start to the winter semester. ENVM instructor, Scott Keesey, along with support coach, Tammy Tropic, have been busy assisting students with their final first aid and safety courses and capstone project before graduation this May. There are 2 students completing the program this year; their capstone project will be completed this April in Haida Gwaii, BC. The 2024 cohort of students are preparing for their next course in Atlin, BC in May.



*YRC instructor, Louis-Philippe Roy, joined ENVM instructor Scott Keesey and students at the Takhini Permafrost Slump*



*Students and staff in Haida Gwaii in April 2025, completing their capstone project*



*Students applying their practical skills with flow monitoring at Wolf Creek*

# Northern Mine Remediation Update

## An update on mining innovation research at YukonU

*Submitted by Dr. Bronwyn Hancock, Vice-Provost, Academic & Research*

Dr. Guillaume Nielsen, YukonU's Industrial Research Chair in Northern Mine Remediation, concluded his program with YukonU on March 31, 2025. The sunsetting of NSERC's Industrial Research Chair for Colleges program, and a relocation for Guillaume at the end of his term, contributed to this outcome.

YukonU is proud to have hosted this program and Guillaume during his tenure in the position. As his time with YukonU came to a close, we shared in a letter to Guillaume and through recognition to our YukonU community our appreciation for his research contributions, his mentoring of our students, his contributions to teaching and knowledge sharing, and the course he developed for delivery in Yukon community schools. Guillaume also shared his research outcomes with bodies like the Yukon Water Board, in addition to the contributions he made to knowledge and practices for the industry partners making up his Northern Mine Remediation partner consortium.

On behalf of YukonU, I would also like to express my direct gratitude to the industry partners who participated in the research program Guillaume led. Partners have included Newmont Corporation, BMC Minerals Ltd., Minto Metals, Victoria Gold Corp., Casino Mining Corp., Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd., Hecla Mining and Alexco Resource Corp. Each partner contributed funding, which was an important element of our ability to secure NSERC and other funding, but importantly, partners also contributed guidance, advice and direction in priority setting, collaboratively developing a research program led by Guillaume that had impact in the industry in many ways. Thank you to each partner for the time and energy you put into this research, in addition to your financial contributions.

YukonU is exploring options to continue to support research and related research leadership related to mining. In November 2024, our Board of Governors formally approved the establishment of a Research Chair in Northern Innovation in Mining, pending funding. (This was not necessary when the Research Chair was originally developed under the Yukon College model.)

We are working on identifying funds to support the recruitment of a new Research Chair, who will serve as a faculty member at YukonU and contribute to teaching in the university's programs. As we re-envision a mining-related research program at YukonU, we anticipate deeper research collaborations with CNIM, and will seek guidance from the CNIM Governing Council where needed.



## General Updates

- CNIM's commercial driving instructors have been busy providing Air Brake Endorsement and Class 3 theory courses to various communities, as well as contract training to Yukon businesses, such as Standard Bus and YFNED locally in Whitehorse.
- The Advancing Commercial Driving Project is currently underway with the generous support of Government of Canada's CanNor agency. The CNIM team, along with YG staff participated in the commissioning of the new simulator in April 2025.
- The CNIM shop and HET shop hosted students, staff and public for Skills Canada events on April 24th.
- Environmental Monitoring Certificate program instructor is collaborating with Minto Mine, Keno Hill and Casino Mine for field courses this upcoming summer.



**Meagan Christie**  
Instructor  
Carpentry



**Dr. Guillaume Nielsen**  
Industrial Research Chair  
Northern Mine Remediation  
YukonU Research Centre



**Elizabeth Moses**  
Elder on Campus

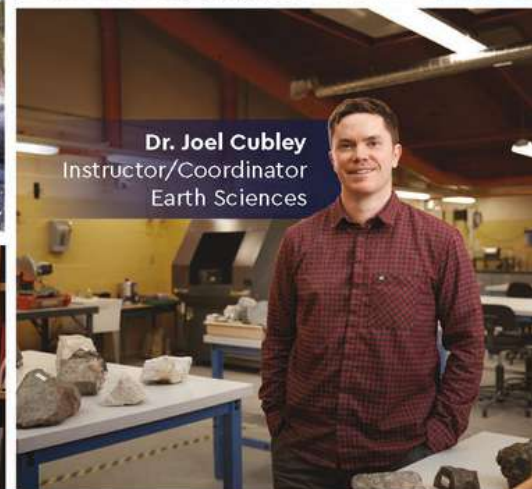
Photos: GBP Creative



**Samantha Piper**  
Instructor  
Health Care Assistant



**Dr. Benoit Turcotte**  
Senior Research Professional  
Climate Change Research  
YukonU Research Centre



**Dr. Joel Cubley**  
Instructor/Coordinator  
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**Doug McRae**  
Instructor  
Heavy Equipment Technician



**Dr. Victoria Castillo**  
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School of Liberal Arts



**Dr. Sara McPhee-Knowles**  
Instructor  
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**Dr. Katie Aitken**  
Instructor/Coordinator  
Northern Environmental  
and Conservation Sciences

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from the North

Collaborate, learn  
and grow with us.

[YukonU.ca/leading](https://YukonU.ca/leading)