

CNIM

update

November 2025

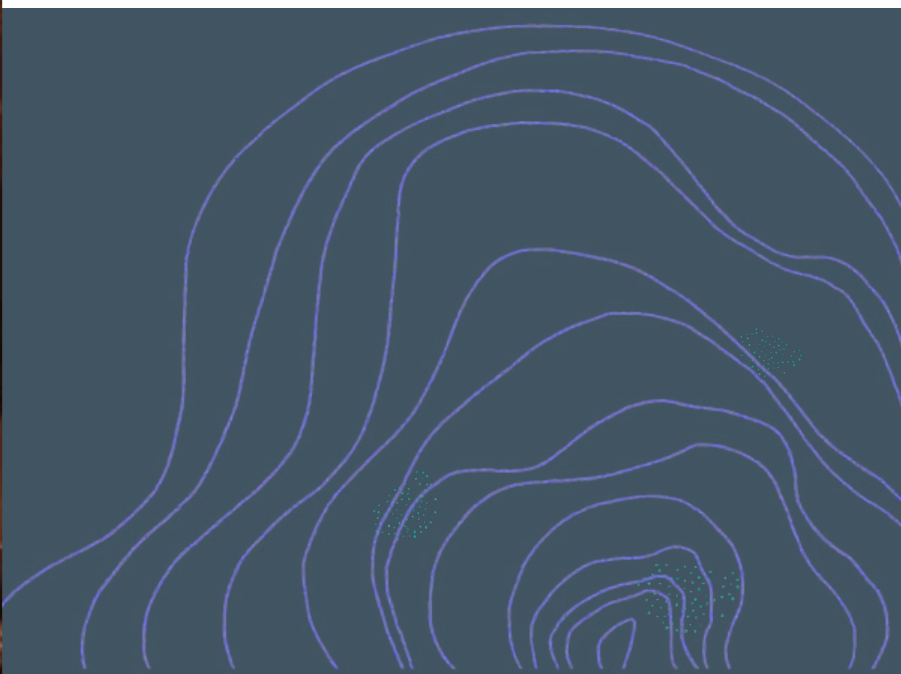
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At a glance

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



CNIM highlights: May - August

Heavy Equipment Technician

- Nine Level 3 apprentices completing their training, eight of whom took the Red Seal exam.
- CNIM staff attended Skills Compétences Canada for the national competition in Regina, Saskatchewan, to support and assist as needed.

Heavy Equipment Operator Training

The HEO program is rapidly expanding after acquiring new skid steer loader equipment from MacPherson Rentals. From June to August 2025, the following courses were completed:

- Burwash Landing: Train the Trainer program with Kluane First Nation staff
- Carmacks: HEO Theory, simulator, and in-cab training with LSCFN and Carmacks Development Corp.
- Whitehorse: Two Skid Steer training courses on campus

Safety and Industrial Training

Instructor Wayne Schmidt trained 79 students during summer 2025. From May to August, courses were held in Dawson City, Mayo, Whitehorse, and the Victoria Gold Mine Site, covering:

- Rigging and Hoisting
- Crane Operator Training
- Fall Protection
- Confined Space Entry

Class 3, Class 1, and Air Brakes Endorsement

This summer, the commercial driver training program was active in Carmacks from July to September 2025, in partnership with LSCFN/Mount Nansen and the Carmacks Development Corporation. In Whitehorse, student progress was notable:

- Air Brake Endorsement: 38 students
- Class 3/1 Theory: 23 students
- Simulator Training: 14 students
- In-Cab Training: 12 students

CNIM highlights: May - August

Earth Sciences

May:

- Two-week geological field school on Quadra Island, BC.
- Mary Samolczyk attended the BCCAT Earth Sciences meeting in Kamloops to enhance program connections.

June:

- Graduation for 5 Earth Science students!
- Groundwater research training workshop near Whitehorse, funded by the NRC development grant.

July:

- Faculty and staff spent time in Dawson City for the Geological Survey of Canada's Virtual Geology project, which is now funded through 2027.

Environmental Monitoring Certificate

May:

- ENVM 093 Aquatic Resources delivery in Atlin BC, which focused on water quality, hydrology, arctic grayling monitoring, and hydroelectric power generation.

June:

- ENVM 097 Contaminated Sites course in Faro, hosted by CIRNAC.
- Graduation for 2 Environmental Monitoring Certificate students!

July:

- Students in ENVM 096 focused on monitoring methods for terrestrial ecosystems in the Whitehorse area.

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Heavy Equipment Technician

- The 11 remaining HET pre-apprenticeship students are diving into the fundamentals of heavy equipment. This is a highly engaged group. Thank you to YG, BQE Water, and Finning Inc. for recent equipment contributions that are elevating our training.

Heavy Equipment Operator Training

- In mid-October, CNIM's HEO instructor, Tomasz Wozniak delivered three Heavy Trailer Endorsement courses in Carmacks. The courses were organized by our great Community Campus Coordinator Mary-Ann Ferguson in cooperation with the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation Land and Resources Division, who provided an additional truck and trailer. A total of 15 students completed the training, which was followed by the Heavy Trailer Endorsement exam administered by examiners from the Whitehorse Motor Vehicles Office – congratulations everybody!



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At the end of October, as part of the Heavy Equipment Operator Program, Tomasz conducted 4 days of Skid Steer training in Ross River at the Than Dene Cho Kê'endj Campus. A total of 10 participants successfully completed the training and received their certificates.



In early November, three rounds of two-day Skid Steer Loader courses were delivered at our Watson Lake campus. The practical sessions took place at the local gravel pit. A total of 16 participants had the opportunity to gain experience with multiple operating systems and successfully earned their certificates – well done everyone!



CNIM staff would like to thank the following companies for assisting with training:

- Parsons Corporation: Recruitment & Funding
- Dena Nezziddi Development Corporation for providing their Skid Steer
- Tu-Lidlini Energy for offering a heated hangar
- Liard First Nation Capital & Housing Department for providing their Bobcat

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Safety and Industrial Training

The fall season has been productive, with a strong focus on safety and industrial training initiatives. Wayne Schmidt travelled to Burwash and Watson and delivered courses for students of the Pre-Apprenticeship Trades program in Whitehorse.

The industrial safety team has been actively recruiting new instructors to support and grow the suite of training available across the Yukon. We are pleased to report that Continuing Studies' Tyler Coghill, has offered his instructional skills for the delivery of multiple Chainsaw for Women courses in Old Crow. The industrial safety team looks forward to additional instructional capacity-building opportunities for the Continuing Studies Division that advance the culture of safety throughout the territory.

Class 3, Class 1, and Air Brakes Endorsement

Commercial driving instructors, Trevor Sinclair and Cameron Price have been training students at a steady pace at the Whitehorse campus. Running Air Brake Endorsement courses, Class 4, 3 and 1 Theory, simulator training and in-cab training in Whitehorse from September - November.

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Additionally, while courses commenced in Whitehorse, both commercial driving instructors travelled to communities to complete training with students locally.

Carmacks

A total of 10 students completed their Class 4 & Class 3 road tests with the Department of Motor Vehicles in Carmacks.

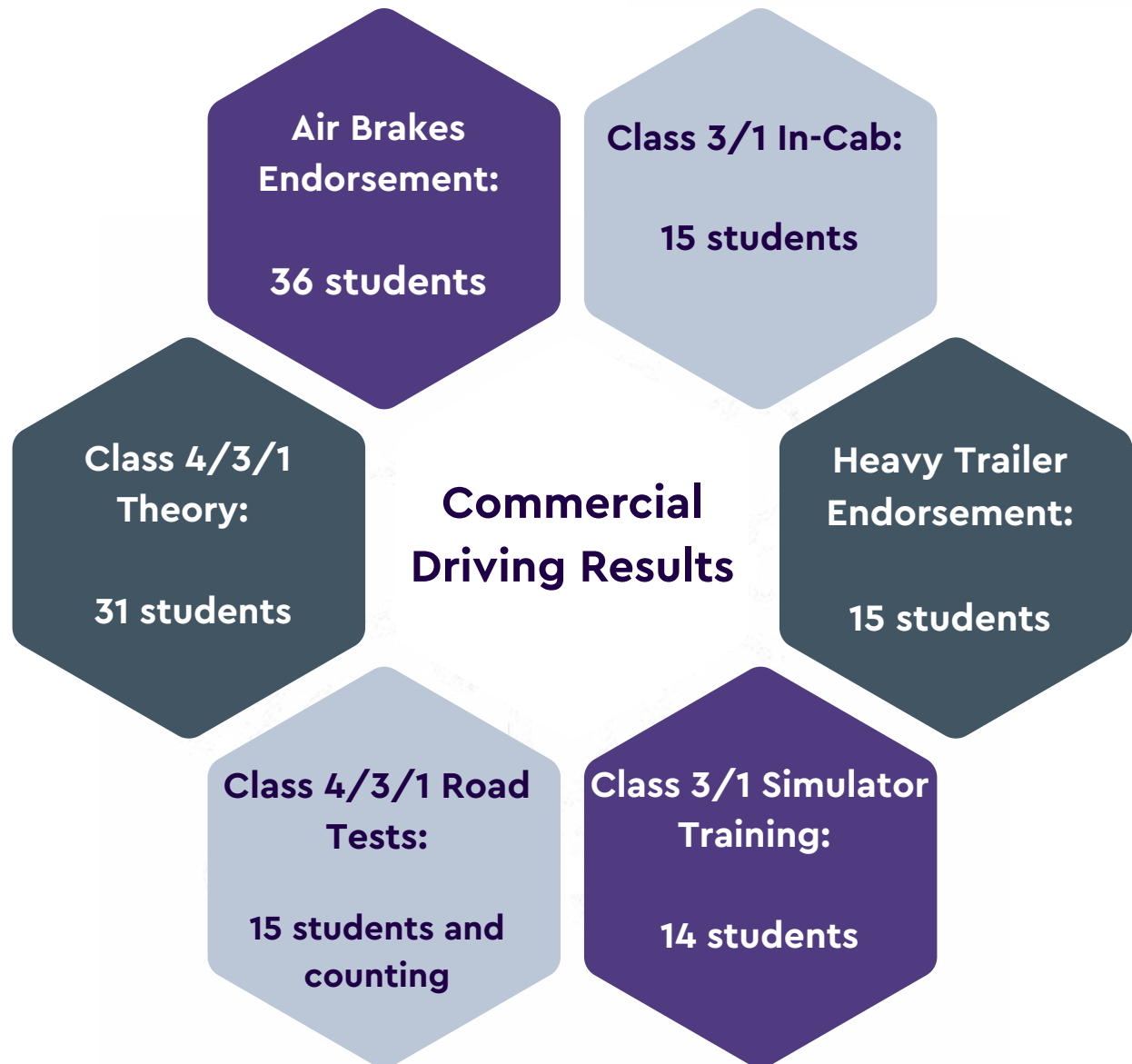
Ross River & Faro

A total of 6 students from Ross River have completed their Air Brake Endorsement, Class 3 Theory/written exams, simulator training and Class 3 in-cab training as of November 6th. Road tests are scheduled for November 27th & 28th.

Watson Lake

Air Brake Endorsement, Class 3 Theory & Class 4 Theory to be completed by end of November.

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Class 3 students passing their road tests in Whitehorse!

Earth Sciences

The 2025 fall semester in the Earth Sciences program is busy with 17 students enrolled in the program and several others taking Earth Sciences courses as elective credit. Faculty currently include Dr. J. Cubley, Dr. C. Morgan and M. Samolczyk. We are also delighted to have Rosie Cobbett from the Yukon Geological Survey teaching for us this semester.

Fall courses that are being offered this semester include:

- Geological Field Methods and Mapping I (GEOL 207); taught by M. Samolczyk (course completed Sept. 01)
- Physical Geology (GEOL 105); taught by Dr. J. Cubley (lecture) and Dr. C. Morgan (lab)
- Mineralogy (GEOL 200); taught by Dr. J. Cubley (lecture) and Dr. C. Morgan (lab)
- Sedimentology and Stratigraphy (GEOL 206); taught by Dr. C. Morgan (lecture and lab)
- Structural Geology (GEOL 208); taught by R. Cobbett (lecture and lab)
- Introduction to Soil Sciences and Resources (RENR/SOIL 210); taught by M. Samolczyk (lecture and lab)



Dr. Joel Cubley teaches bedrock mapping to a group of Earth Sciences students.



Earth Sciences students working on field notes during mapping exercise on Bald Hill.



Gladiator Metals' geologist Jo Van Randen provides core logging instruction during the 2025 field school.

Faculty continue to conduct research and participate in geoscience outreach activities. Some highlights include:

- Earth Sciences faculty have been focusing on geology outreach through the Virtual Geology Project (www.yukonu.ca/virtual-geology), funded by NRCan's GEM GeoNorth Program. A virtual experience is currently being constructed that focuses on the Klondike region. This experience will highlight topics such as placer mining, hardrock exploration, and mass wasting. In addition, a 'Research in Action' experience will be released that details Dr. Theron Finley's (YGS) research on the Tintina fault, highlighting the recent excavation and interpretation of sediments along the fault.
- Faculty are completing the final year of a National Research Council-funded investigation into metal(oid) contamination in groundwater in the Whitehorse area. This multi-collaborator project supports students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Jamie Pope, a second-year YukonU Earth Sciences student played a critical role in leading fieldwork in Whitehorse this summer. One talk and two posters related to this research will be presented at the 2025 Yukon Geoscience Forum. A new proposal has recently been submitted for three additional years of funding (2026-2029) for groundwater research in the city.
- The Yukon University Earth Sciences Program and the Yukon Geological Survey have been selected to host the 2027 Geological Association of Canada – Mineralogical Association of Canada (GAC-MAC) national meeting in Whitehorse. This conference will bring 450+ geoscientists from across Canada to the territory for a week-long conference and fieldtrips.

The ENVM team had a busy summer completing 3 courses from May through July 2025. Fall approached quickly, and unfortunately, due to low student enrollment, the ENVM team have a tentative plan to postpone the September 2025 cohort to a later date (to be determined).

As the team navigates these unforeseen circumstances, they continue to support the 4 students leading up to graduation in June of 2026.



Students in Atlin, BC testing water flow and quality at the Atlin hydro facility and nearby creek



General Updates

- As of August 11th, the CNIM department has a new administrative assistant at the front desk. Randy Caponga will be in the role until June 30, 2026, as Michael Atkins takes on a coordination role for Continuing Studies - Communities.
- CNIM's Commercial driving instructors, as well as Yukon Government's Highways and Public Works, and Department of Motor Vehicles staff completed Mandatory Entry Level Training through the Saskatchewan Trucking Association. This was a great opportunity for our staff to level up their skills in this "train the trainer" style course work.
- Additional support staff members had the opportunity to complete crane operator safety training, internally with instructor Wayne Schmidt
- Through the CanNor sponsored Advancing Commercial Driving Project, CNIM has tendered the purchase of a 20-T crane truck. This vehicle will be used for commercial driver training, as well as a suite of industrial safety and crane operator training courses.