Yukon University | Continuing Studies
Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining

CNIM update

November 2026

YukonU.ca/CNIM



At a Glance



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CNIM Update - November 2026

Heavy Equipment Technician

The HET Pre-Apprenticeship program launched August 24 with a full cohort of 12 students, following strong applicant interest and considerably more applications than available seats. The program is progressing well, with students actively engaged in foundational training.

Several improvements to the HET training environment are also underway. We are exploring the installation of a new shop exhaust extraction system in preparation for Level 2 training in fall 2027, alongside a comprehensive update of shop Standard Operating Procedures and the development of safe work practices for new equipment, tools and laboratory activities.

The next HET Pre-Apprenticeship intake is planned for January 2028 to allow time to revise curriculum in response to significant changes underway in Alberta's HET training standards. We are also exploring the acquisition of specialized ConsuLab training equipment, including diesel exhaust aftertreatment and CAN bus multiplex training systems, to strengthen hands-on instruction and better reflect current heavy-duty industry technologies.

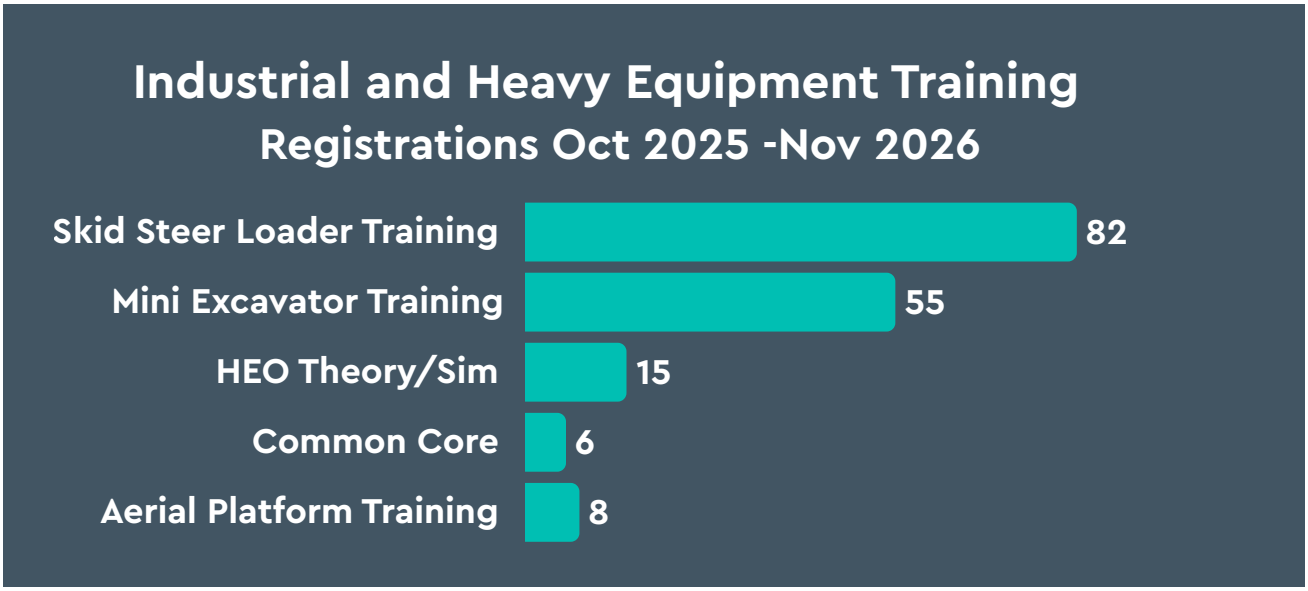


Photo: Trades students gathering during a School of Trades coffee break.

CNIM Update - November 2026

Heavy Equipment Operator Training

The Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) Program continues to expand with the development of new curriculum to meet industry training needs across Yukon. HEO Instructor, Tomasz Wozniak, has been busy developing an Aerial Platform Training course that will pilot in both Faro and Whitehorse, with the Faro delivery already reaching full registration capacity. Tomasz has also completed the curriculum development for a new Telehandler Operator Training course, which is scheduled to be offered next month in Whitehorse. In addition, the HEO team has been working closely with Selkirk Copper Ltd. to develop and deliver an upcoming 12-week Heavy Equipment Operator training program, creating new opportunities for community members to gain industry-recognized skills and hands-on equipment operating experience. The team prepares for the delivery of Skid-Steer Operator Training in Watson Lake and Faro, continuing CNIM's commitment to providing accessible, industry-driven equipment training throughout Yukon communities.



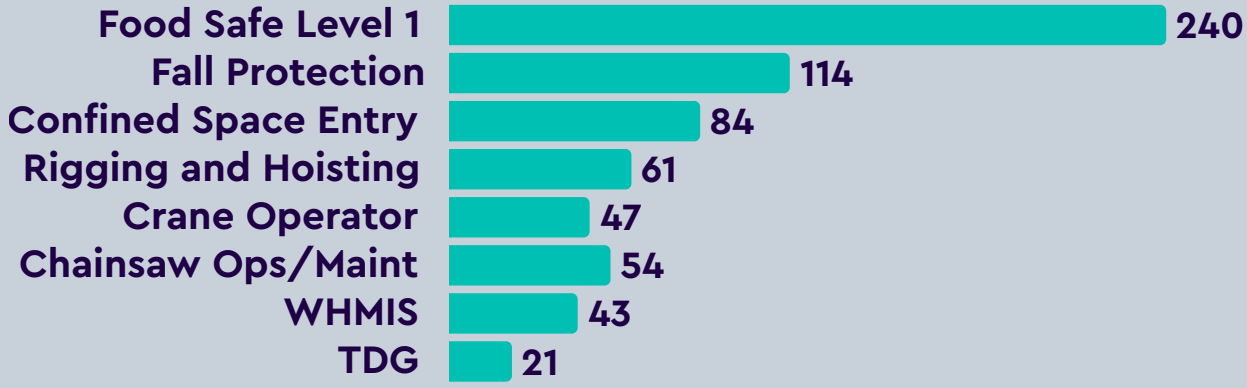
CNIM Update - November 2026

Safety and Industrial Training

During October and November, CNIM continued to expand access to workplace safety training across Yukon by delivering essential industrial safety courses in communities including Old Crow, Ross River, and Teslin. These community-based training initiatives, along with safety certifications provided to students in the Pre-Apprenticeship Trades Program, equipped students with the knowledge and industry-recognized credentials needed to enter and succeed in the workforce. By bringing training directly to communities and supporting future trades professionals, Industrial Safety Programs - CNIM continues to strengthen Yukon's workforce through accessible, practical, and industry-driven safety training.

Industrial Safety Training

Industrial Safety Training Registrations Oct 2025 -Nov 2026



CNIM Update - November 2026

Commercial Driver Training

Since the beginning of October, CNIM's Commercial Driving team has delivered a variety of training programs across the Yukon. Activities have included the offering of theory courses in Ross River, completing a contract with the Government of Yukon to provide multiple Cargo Securement and Heavy Trailer Endorsement training courses, the delivery of a Basic Trailering course in partnership with Yukon Women in Trades and Technology (YWITT), as well as ongoing Class 3 and Class 1 driver training in Whitehorse.

Looking ahead, CNIM will offer Class 3 training in Watson Lake at the end of November, as well as a Class 4 Theory course in Burwash Landing during the week of Yukon's Geoscience Forum.

In early October, 8 students successfully passed their Air Brake Endorsement exams in Whitehorse. Additional Air Brake Endorsement courses are planned for Yukon's communities this November, including a weekend course in Mayo, and a weekday course in Watson Lake.



Two of our Class 1 Commercial Driving students on the simulator in Whitehorse

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Commercial Driving - RRDC Workforce Development

- Class 4 & Class 3 Theory October 27 - 30
- Class 7 Theory Nov 2 - 4
  - Due to high demand, this is the second CNIM offering of this course for the Ross River community this year

While CNIM and the Ross River campus team initially planned to offer an Air Brake Endorsement course followed by Class 3 Theory training, the schedule was adjusted in response to student interest and demand. To better meet learners' needs, we offered both Class 4 Theory and Class 3 Theory courses, ensuring students interested in pursuing their Class 3 licence could access this training.

The Class 4 Theory course was designed for students whose roles often require them to transport larger groups using 15- to 20-passenger vans, helping them gain the knowledge and qualifications needed for these responsibilities.

Dene Cho Kê'endį, Ross River Campus



Earth Sciences

Earth Sciences students are progressing steadily through their fall term coursework, with Physical Geology, Mineralogy, Structural Geology, and Sedimentation and Stratigraphy courses currently being run by department faculty. Several students are in attendance at the Yukon Geoscience Forum, with their registration costs generously covered by Snowline Gold.

The Dr. Craig Finnigan Field School Endowment fund has been officially established with original seed money from Kaminak Gold. The fund will distribute 50% of its annual earnings to defray field school costs for students and ensure the continuation of robust field training. Companies and individuals can contribute directly to the fund by either going through the Yukon University Foundation's website or utilizing QR codes to be rolled out with program promotional materials. Geoscience faculty have very active this fall in program promotion and outreach, with recent and upcoming presentations to high school students (St. Francis of Assisi, Individual Learning Centre, Wood Street Centre), the BC Water and Waste Association conference attendees, and members of the Canadian Water Agency. A faculty-led Yukon Virtual Geology project tour of the Klondike region was released in late October (Virtual Geology project tour of the Klondike region was released in late October.



Earth Sciences- Research

Faculty member Mary Samolczyk is currently at the National Research Council laboratories in Ottawa conducting X-ray diffraction (XRD), particle size/shape and scanning electron microscopy (SEM) analyses on surficial sediments from across the City of Whitehorse. The mineralogy and geochemistry of these sediments and their impacts on groundwater geochemistry are poorly understood and these analyses are a first step in characterization. Additional work has included drone-based thermal imaging of wetlands to identify groundwater inputs. This research project is part of an ongoing, Yukon University led collaboration with researchers from Yukon Government, Carleton University, University of Saskatchewan, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Queen's University.

A publication by faculty member Joel Cubley has been accepted in the Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences entitled "Geology of the structural corridor between the Insular superterrane and Jura-Cretaceous continental margin, southwest Yukon, with implications for Cordilleran tectonic evolution." This paper, with co-authors from the Yukon Geological Survey, Archer Cathro, and Boise State University, uses geochemistry and U-Pb geochronology to better understand terrane accretion in the Kluane region.

An ongoing, Mitacs-funded research collaboration between Yukon University and Core Geoscience Services is focused on better understanding grain-size and ambient temperature impacts on metal leaching and acid rock drainage, and how MEND guidelines could better reflect northern conditions. The lead student, Danyka Thorburn, will be presenting her preliminary findings at the Yukon Geoscience Forum in the Environmental Research & Innovation session.

Earth Sciences- Research



Danyka Thorburn (student) and Ethan Allen (CoreGeo) sampling ultramafic rocks from a quarry near Marsh Lake

Student research assistant Jesse Latoski field sampling surficial sediments in the Whitehorse Copper Belt.



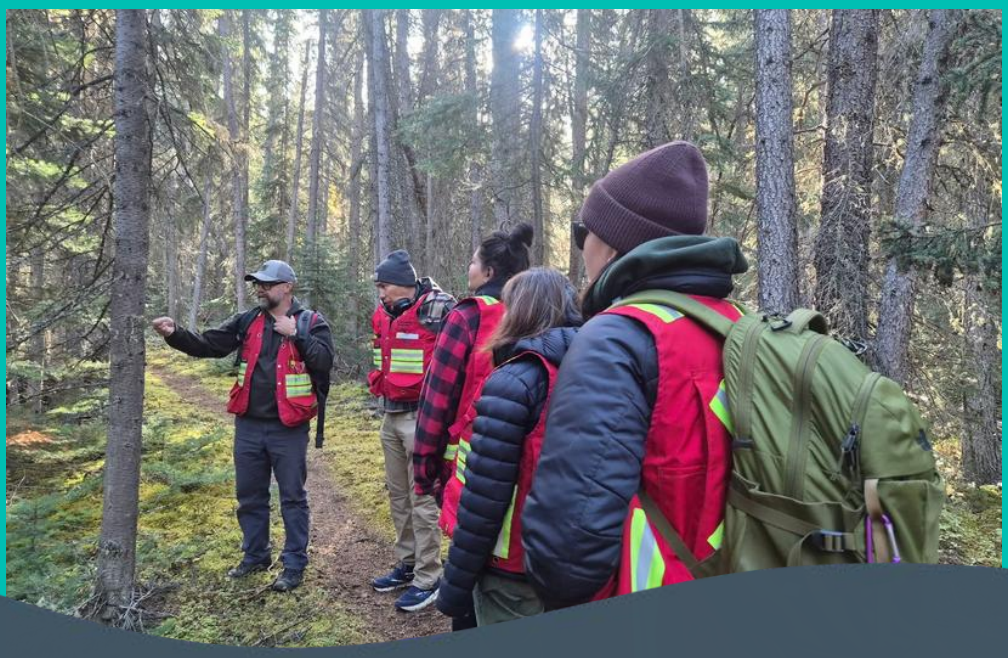
Environmental Monitoring Certificate

In September, Environmental Monitoring students participated in the ENVM 094 Aquatic Monitoring course in the Fish Lake and Klukshu areas. The course focused on aquatic ecosystems, including the biology of water systems and related monitoring and sampling techniques. Students benefited from both classroom and field-based learning opportunities, with Natasha Ayoub joining the course as a guest instructor to share her expertise and experience.

October marked the start of a new Environmental Monitoring cohort. Students attended ENVM 090, Introduction to Environmental Monitoring, in Carcross. The course combined classroom instruction with hands-on field training and site visits, including trips to the Venus Mine site and Gladiator Metals' project. Students developed foundational navigation skills and gained experience using field tools such as GaiaGPS. Elders from the community also participated through a series of fireside discussions focused on health, wellness, and maintaining positive habits while pursuing educational and career goals.

Snowline Gold has generously committed financial support to the ENVM program for the next two years and has started by supplying students with new field packs.

The new cohort of ENVM Students on Montana Mountain in Carcross during ENVM 090



Environmental Monitoring Certificate



The new cohort of ENVM Students on their first course, ENVM 090, on a tour of the Venus Mine site with Haa Chali LP staff



Looking ahead, the same cohort will participate in ENVM 091 in late November in the Fish Lake area. This course will focus on employment readiness, and the continued development of practical environmental monitoring and general fieldwork skills.

General Updates

Crane Certification

CNIM continues to develop crane training and certification pathways under the guidance and financial support of the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB). This project will investigate opportunities to host Fulford Certification for Level A crane certification workshops, which will be valid for life, with no expiry date. As of the date of this report, since January 2023, CNIM's Industrial Safety Instructor, Wayne Schmidt, has provided crane training to 236 students in the Yukon who are now eligible for certification.

New and Improved First Line Supervisor Certification Program to Launch

CNIM, under contract with the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB), has developed two new supervisor certification streams: Mill Operations Supervisor and Maintenance Supervisor, and has reviewed and enhanced the current Mine Supervisor Program content. The enhanced First Line Supervisor Certification Program will be piloted in the upcoming weeks, prior to an official launch on Yukon University's online Moodle platform.



Blaster Training and Certification

CNIM has submitted an online blaster training program development proposal to the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB). The proposal suggests the development of Yukon's blaster training to begin in 2027. To date, a total of 174 Yukon blasting tickets (20 avalanche, 30 surface, and 124 underground) were issued to applicants whose credentials were acquired elsewhere in Canada, as well as newly trained Yukon residents, from 2021 to 2026.