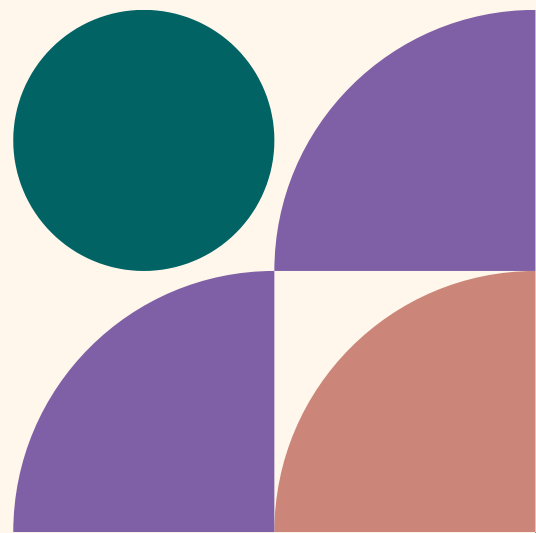
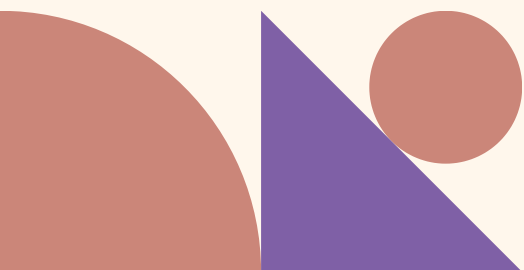


TERRITORIAL YOUTH STRATEGY

SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH YUKON YOUTH

2024





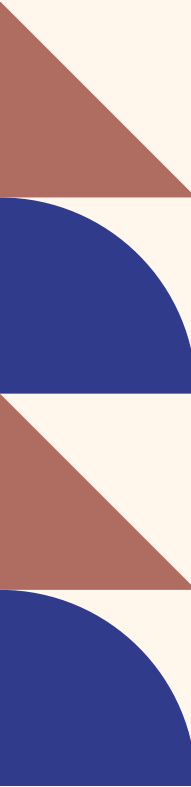
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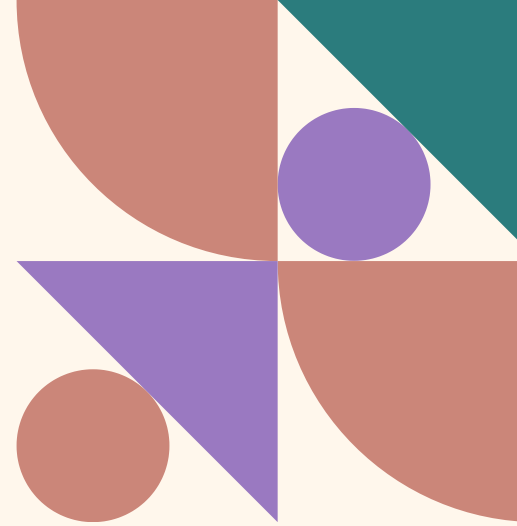
To anybody and everybody who helped contribute to this document and the ongoing work to support our Territory's youth.



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WHAT IS THE TYS?

This TYS document is the result of what the TYS process has been working towards. Rather than being implemented through policy mandates, the TYS will serve as a guiding document for decision-makers at all levels and in all sectors. It will continue to exist as a living document in the years to come and will be revised based on conversations at Annual Accountability Forums. This will take place as a component of the annual Yukon Youth Summit.

OUR VISION

All Yukon youth have a sense of belonging throughout the Territory. This means that they feel empowered, have a positive sense of self and their futures, have mutually caring and fulfilling relationships, and feel connected to and supported by their family, community, and land.

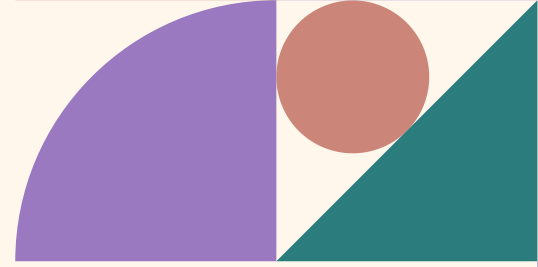
INTRO

NATURE OF THE STRATEGY

The Territorial Youth Strategy (TYS) is a collaborative effort between many diverse stakeholders throughout the Yukon including young people, youth-serving organizations, businesses, community members, and all levels of government. The TYS has evolved from many years of collaborations between these groups. We invite all groups interested in supporting Yukon youth to join the collaborative effort and ask that groups consider what role they might play in the TYS. The TYS draws inspiration from the 7 generations concept and the Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy (Yukon Advisory Committee, 2020), and with permission has used the process and product of that strategy as a guide.

THE TYS IS A PROCESS

It aims to create an inclusive collective impact process that connects the full spectrum of youth services and resources; from basic needs such as food and housing, to community services, government supports, higher education, career opportunities, and community safety. It provides both immediate interventions as well as upstream prevention-focused approaches. It will create systems level change and utilize intergenerational connections to uplift youth. A key component of the TYS process is to ensure that it prioritizes the issues that matter most to young Yukoners.

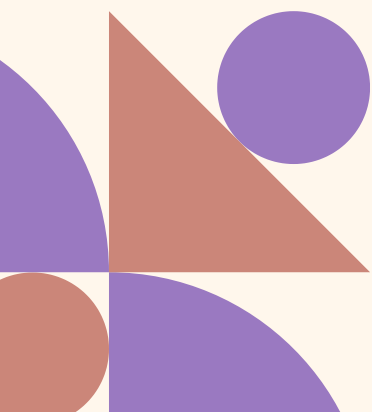


CBYF YUKON AND COLLECTIVE IMPACT

The formally known Communities Building Youth Futures (CBYF) Yukon; now Territorial Youth Collective (TYC), project is a collective of young people, youth-serving organizations, community groups, and government representatives working together in the Yukon. The TYC project received funding and support from Tamarack Institute and Employment and Social Development Canada from 2019/2020 till 2023/2024. TYC uses a Collective Impact approach to target barriers youth face and work together to build supports and solutions for Yukon youth. The collective is currently made up of dozens of core organizations, plus many more involved on our 3 Implementation Teams (Previously known as Action Teams): Mental Wellness & Land + Stewardship, Basic Needs & Community Safety + Harm Reduction, and Access to Education & Employment + Career Opportunities.

PROCESS: DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY

The CBYF collective has facilitated the TYS development process thus far. This is because we value the importance of the TYS being developed and owned by multiple stakeholders from various sectors of the Yukon community, rather than by any government or single organization. This way we can ensure the TYS reflects as many perspectives as possible and that its implementation is held accountable by the Yukon community at large. While the national CBYF project has had its final year (2023/2024) of operational funding, the collective will continue to live on in order to support the TYS. As CBYF Yukon, we have created a web of partnership and collaboration throughout the Yukon, we have now transitioned to the Territorial Youth Collective to create sustainability of this project and honor the collective impact approach we worked towards.





YUKON TERRITORIAL YOUTH STRATEGY DECLARATION 2024

As Yukoners and leaders, we acknowledge the work of the Communities Building Youth Futures Collective and accept the findings of the Territorial Youth Strategy.

As Yukoners and leaders, we commit to upholding the voices of youth, marginalized and vulnerable peoples, and communities through collective impact and collaboration.

Together, and as individuals, we are committed to do our part in the design and execution of an implementation plan for the Yukon Territorial Youth Strategy, and initiatives that contribute to the yearly priorities identified by Yukon youth.

We commit to creating a sense of belonging for all Yukon youth, while empowering youth's visions to have a positive sense of self and feel connected to and supported by their family, community, and land.

We commit to be accountable to youth, other partners, contributors, Yukon First Nations and our community members for implementation of this Strategy through an annual accountability forum and development of evaluation metrics and tools.

TYS DECLARATION 2024 SIGNATORIES

Yukon Government
Ranj Pillai
Premier of Yukon

Yukon Child and Youth
Advocate Office
Annette King
Child and Youth Advocate

Government of Canada
Brendan Hanley
Member of Parliament
for Yukon

Yukon Government
Jeanie McLean
Deputy Premier of Yukon

City of Whitehorse
Laura Cabott
Mayor of Whitehorse

Carcross Tagish First Nation
Maria Benoit
K̓aa Shaadé Hení (Chief)

DECLARATION



6 Territorial Youth Strategy - 2024

Ta'an Kwach'an Council

Amanda Leas
Chief

BGC Yukon

Lindsay Cornell
Executive Director

BYTE Yukon

Casey Albert
Executive Director

Yukon Housing Corporation

Doris Bill
Chair - Board of Directors

KDFN Youth Council

Natilee Thompson
Youth Councillor

Youth of Today Society

Linda Benoit
President

Royal Canadian

Mounted Police

Kent Langley
Inspector

The Yukon Party

Currie Dixon
Leader of the Yukon Party

Yukon NDP

Lane Tredger
MLA for Whitehorse Centre

Unleash Canada

Kelly Proudfoot
Representative

Tamarak Institute

Liz Weaver
President and Co-CEO

Skills Canada Yukon

Douglas McRae
President

Skills Canada Yukon

Abbey Gartner
Program Coordinator

Skills Canada Yukon

Katie Mooney
Executive Director

Village of Teslin

Lindsay Johnston
Recreation Manager

Kajit-in Zho - Dawson

City Youth Centre

Lisa Anderson
Kajit-in Zho Manager

Les Essentielles

Laurence Rivard
Director

Safe at Home Society

Kate Mechan
Executive Director

Yukon Food Security

Network

Michelle Watson
Coordinator

Jack.org / Faces to the

Sun Consulting Inc.

Alexia Miron
Indigenous Lead

Inspire Yukon

Nikita Sawrenko-Bailey
Communications
Coordinator

Health Dept. - CYFN

Kareena Joshi
Health Analyst

Health Dept. - CYFN

Kristeen McTavish
Senior Analyst

YG - Child, Youth, and

Family Treatment Team

Sheena Reidy
Youth Outreach Counsellor

Air North

Debra Ryan
Manager - Strategic
Planning & Alliances

Yukon Anti-Poverty

Coalition

Myryja Friesen
Director

Canadian Filipino

Association

Dominic Pelayo
President

Adventure Time

Isabelle Piche
Owner/Operator

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

of Yukon

Dale Abbott-Smith
Executive Director

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE TYS

The list below is a summary of recent contributions. Many more contributions took place from 2017-2024. Additionally, there have been many other key individuals that have contributed, including elders, cultural workers, families, community members, and more.

WAYS WE HAVE ENGAGED YOUNG PEOPLE LEADING UP TO THE SIGNING:

Territorial Youth Strategy:

- CBYF embarked on a groundbreaking initiative, engaging with hundreds of Yukon youth across the Territory since 2021 and gathering feedback from remote communities and municipalities to finalize the document.

Partnerships for Change:

- We've collaborated with (BYTE Empowering Youth Society) on Northern Youth Want project and the Youth Pathways to Leadership Project and Survey (CBYF Yukon, Northern Youth Want 2022) to amplify our impact.
- The collective collaborates with Youth of Today Society to help put on the Yukon Youth Summit each year which has served as the accountability forum for the TYS.

Community Engagement:

- Volunteering: Contributing to community events.
- Booths: Educating and engaging community members at various events.
- Collective Impact Sessions: held in various youth and community space across the Yukon. These sessions were where we heard the most directly from youth about what needed to be included in a youth strategy.

Milestones and Achievements:

- Territorial Youth Strategy Signing Ceremony: A historic moment in April 2024 that marked a major milestone.
- CRIA Training: Empowering our staff to impact policy through a child rights lens.
- Empowering Safe Spaces & Employing Youth Effectively: Workshops and initiatives created and facilitated by youth. To foster a safe and supportive environment for youth.
- Monthly Scared Fires: Collaborative events with BGC Yukon and Tsalazra, supported by TYC.

Ongoing Initiatives:

- **Implementation Teams:** Three teams of youth and community partners focused on implementing projects based on the current year's priorities.
- **Youth Network Hub Renewal:** A central communication tool run by Youth of Today Society and guided by CBYF, that will continue to better communication with youth.
- **Federal Advocacy:** Trips and meetings with Ottawa stakeholders to advance our mission
- **Partnership Gatherings:** Collaborations with partners to drive meaningful change
- **Supporting youth after hour access:** Collaborative with BGC Yukon

YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDERS INVOLVED IN THE TYS PROCESS:

- **Community-based organizations:** BGC Yukon, Big Brothers Big Sisters Yukon, Blood Ties Four Directions, Boreal Clinic - Allied Health Service, BYTE Empowering Youth Society, Canadian Mental Health Association - Yukon Division, Council of Yukon First Nations, Employment Central Yukon, First Nations Health Programs (Whitehorse General Hospital), Inclusion Yukon, Multicultural Centre of the Yukon, Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon, Safe at Home Society, Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, Skills Canada Yukon, Tourism Industry Association, UpstartED, Queer Yukon, Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board (WCB), Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, Volunteer/Benevoles Yukon, Youth of Today Society, Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office, Yukon Literacy Coalition/Family Literacy Centre, Yukon University STEM Programs
- **Youth workers at First Nation Governments:** Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation, Teslin Tlingit Council, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation
- **Youth and recreation workers at other Governments:** City of Dawson, City of Whitehorse, Town of Watson Lake, Village of Carmacks, Village of Teslin
- **Yukon Government:** Department of Education, Department of Economic Development, Department of Justice, Executive Council Office, Sport and Recreation Branch

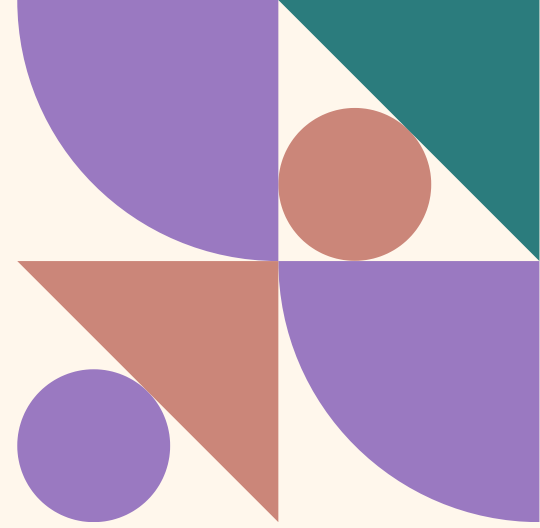


MEANINGFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Supporting and investing in our young people is the best way to ensure a healthy and vibrant Yukon community. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a universal standard for human rights to which every person is entitled. It outlines 54 articles that uphold young people's rights to be protected, supported, and participate meaningfully in decisions that affect them. In the Yukon, much work has been done to ensure young people are considered in policy. The Yukon's Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIIA) Working Group, steered by the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office (YCAO), has been advocating for the CRIIA tool to be used in all stages of policy development within Yukon Government and First Nation Governments. This provides a legislative framework which, when used effectively, consistently ensures that all aspects of Child and Youth Rights are honoured everywhere, in everything, and everyday.



FOUNDATIONAL VALUES

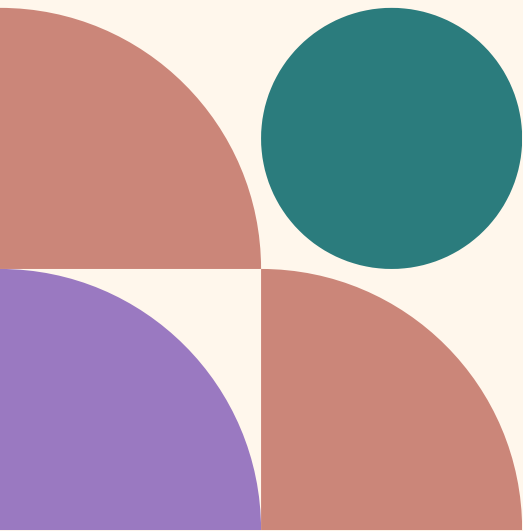


INTERSECTIONALITY

Many Yukoners continue to suffer from various forms of discrimination. The TYS works towards a more equitable future through providing supports to all Yukon youth which increase their sense of belonging. This means the TYS must prioritize supports and services for underserved youth, especially those experiencing multiple marginalized identities (i.e., Indigenous, Black, and other racialized youth, 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth, youth with disabilities, neurodiverse youth, and more).

YUKON FIRST NATIONS WAYS OF KNOWING, DOING, & BEING

A foundation of Yukon First Nations values is integral to the success of the TYS. Yukon First Nations are leaders in understanding the need to prioritize children and their sense of belonging for the generations to come.

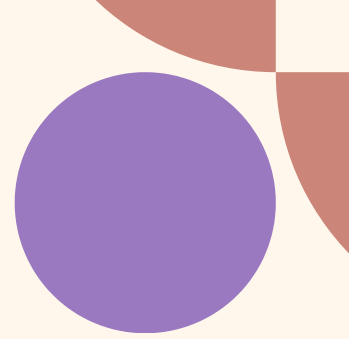


YOUTH VOICE, LEADERSHIP, PARTICIPATION

The TYS promotes a culture that values youth voice and lived experiences, regardless of their professional or academic qualifications. Young people must be the primary creators of the TYS and continue to lead the TYS process. This means increasing the accessibility of youth panels, councils, and committees, and ensuring they go beyond the purpose of “checking a box for youth engagement”. It means providing opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles and create change outside of youth panels and councils, such as creative outlets like art or music. Providing youth with meaningful positions at all levels of government (Municipal, Territorial, Federal, First Nation) helps to ensure that youth-perspectives and concerns are represented and reflected across all government work. Young people must be meaningfully heard, their voices acted upon in a way that does not tokenize them, and must be included in a meaningful and transparent accountability process.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT PROCESS & IMPLEMENTATION

The TYS process follows a Collective Impact approach which values the role and responsibility of all sectors to come together in supporting young people and the future of the Yukon. The approach strives to increase collaboration in order to make system-level change through leveraging the strengths of different actors, reducing duplication of services, and addressing important gaps in services. It places value on working relationships and partnerships across sectors by increasing funding for partnerships that support young people to thrive. The TYC, collective network continues to grow in order to facilitate an inclusive TYS process. The TYS is for all Yukoners, and TYC aims to collaborate with as many stakeholders as possible, including (but not limited to): every Yukon First Nation, Yukon Government Department, City, Town, and Village Government, every school, community organization, youth group, and any individual working to support youth.



CAPACITY BUILDING IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES

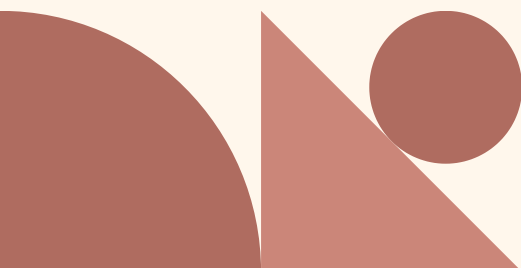
Remote communities outside of Whitehorse continue to experience unique challenges compared to folks in Whitehorse, particularly their young people. The TYS recognizes the increasing need to build sustainable capacity in the communities so that young people do not need to rely on so many Whitehorse-based services. This can be done through increasing human resources in remote communities through recruitment and training opportunities, as well as continuing to fund and support existing youth-serving projects and organizations to build long-term sustainability.

EVALUATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

The Evaluation Committee (previously through CBYF Yukon) will be reformed to invite all interested members to join. Following the finalization of the TYS document and the implementation plan, the Evaluation Committee will support evaluating the implementation of the TYS. In addition, the annual Yukon Youth Summit will serve as an annual Accountability Forum for the implementation of the TYS.

COMMUNICATING RESOURCES & SERVICES

Communication has been identified as a significant component to youth feeling a sense of belonging. Improved communication is crucial for young people to know what resources and services are available for them, for agencies to better recognize each other, increase collaboration and information-sharing opportunities, and inform funders and decision makers what is working and what is needed. The TYS is committed to supporting more engaging, safe, and open communication tools. For example, but not restricted to: Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition Surviving Yukon Guide; Youth Network HUB - online resource supported by Youth of Today Society - Creative House; Yukon Government Youth Directorate - Youth Network.



WHY IT'S URGENT & WHY WE NEED IT

The Yukon continues to experience many urgent crises, some of which are becoming increasingly challenging. Listed here are just a few of the urgent challenges facing our young people that the TYS aims to address (in no particular order):

- Mental wellness crisis
- Substance Use Health Emergency
- Housing crisis
- Climate crisis
- Post-COVID social isolation
- Lack of hope for positive future
- Need for increased sense of belonging in schools to address education disengagement
- Significant over-representation of indigenous youth in care
- Poor communication to youth about services, resources, and opportunities
- Intergenerational disconnect between youth and Elders/Seniors
- Labour market shortage
- Lack of youth voice and leadership opportunities
- Need for conversation around how these crises intersect

NEED & URGENCY

PATHWAYS TO A SENSE OF BELONGING

Below are the identified priorities based on engagements with young people throughout the Territory, youth service providers, various reports, and research projects. See below for a more comprehensive list of sources and inputs that have informed the TYS.

1. BASIC NEEDS

1.1 HOUSING SECURITY

Increase access to affordable, supportive, and safe housing options for everyone, especially young people, families, and people experiencing homelessness or precarious housing. In Canada, housing is considered “affordable” if it costs less than 30% of a household’s before-tax income. Connect youth and youth housing needs within the Housing First system.

1.2 TRANSPORTATION

Provide young people with safe, reliable, and accessible transportation options, especially between remote communities. Reinststate a regular system of transportation between remote communities (i.e. “the old Greyhound system”). Allocate funding for youth programs to offer transportation options for getting young people to and from programs. Prioritize working within Yukon and with Canada to find a sustainable public transportation system.

PRIORITIES

1.3 FOOD AND WATER SECURITY

Increase funding of food programs to accommodate inflation costs to ensure continued access to affordable and healthy food. Continue to work with key food distribution partners including the Whitehorse Food Bank, YFNED Nutrition Program, Local Food Strategy for Yukon, Food Network Yukon, and countless food programs of community organizations to ensure all Yukon youth can access healthy and reliable food. Ensure communication of all available food programs so that youth can more easily access their options. Ensure equitable and consistent access to fresh drinking water for all communities. Work with communities to ensure they have capacity to access supports intended to provide fresh water.

1.4 HEALTHCARE

Increase staffing capacity in the healthcare system, especially Licensed Practical Nurses, to reduce wait times and reliance on larger cities. Maintain access to universal health care. Increase access to menstrual products and supports for all who menstruate, especially queer and transitioning folks.

2. COMMUNITY SAFETY & HARM REDUCTION

2.1 BARRIER FREE YOUTH SHELTER

Create a 24-hour safe space and shelter for young people that does not have a sobriety priority to access. Support the creation of these spaces in remote communities. In addition to the 12-18 yrs range, create spaces that are accessible for young people aged 19-26 who have “aged out” of youth programs.

2.2 SOBER EVENTS AND SPACES

Offer engaging social events and spaces where young people can connect and have fun together without the presence of drugs or alcohol to socialize and pass the time, especially in remote communities. Prioritize after hours options that work with young people’s schedules.

2.3 REDUCE STIGMA & INCREASE RECOVERY SUPPORT

Reach out and care for young people who are struggling with substance-use reliance and invite them to participate in healing activities and relationships. Provide sober-only social spaces for those healing and recovering from trauma and addictions related to substance use.

2.4 FUNDING FOR TREATMENT CENTERS & INTERVENTION SUPPORTS

Increase local Yukon-based treatment centres and intervention support. Focus on implementing family-based treatment and aftercare programs. Prioritize restorative justice processes and extra-judicial sanctions opportunities (over punitive approaches). For example, connecting Elders to youth in the justice system.

2.5 HARM REDUCTION SUPPORTS

Increase harm reduction supports for youth including culturally driven options, safer partying programming, more opportunities for naloxone training, drug testing opportunities, and a safe consumption site option for youth under the age of 19. Increase awareness of these community resources for young people. This is particularly important for young people involved in the criminal justice system and those living in remote communities. Increase spaces where youth can have safe, honest, and open conversations about harm reduction and substance use.

2.6 BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND YOUTH

Invest in more Community Safety Officer (CSO) positions and prioritize building positive relationships between CSO's, RCMP, and young people and support them in making safe choices. CSO's to keep an eye on public spaces at night time to ensure safety for folks, particularly in parks by the river.

2.7 PROGRAMMING FOR YOUNG MEN & BOYS

Create more positive developmental programming for young men and boys to connect them with healthy role models, positive ideas of masculinity, and exploring healthy passions and activities.

3. MENTAL WELLNESS AND CONNECTIONS

3.1 YOUTH CENTERS AND DROP INS

Increase the number of drop-in programs and youth centre's where young people can hang out, connect with trusting role models, and engage in fun activities. Support current youth centre drop-in program models to be open 7 days a week and increase 'after-hours' locations that can promote access to services beyond 8:30-4:30pm. In addition to the 12-18 yrs range, create programming for young people aged 19-26 that have "aged out" of all youth programs.

3.2 INTEREST BASED ACTIVITIES & RECREATION

Increase the number of interest-based activities for young people to explore, including art-based (music, traditional crafts, visual art, dance, multimedia), sport-based (swimming facilities, Dene games, Arctic sports, organized team sports), and other recreation-based activities (hiking, camping, biking, fishing, hunting, and other on the land activities). Increase access to activities by addressing barriers such as financial, physical, and transportation barriers. Create space for youth to share what they want in programming and follow up on their interests.

3.3 COMMUNICATION WITH YOUTH

Improve the ways that resources and opportunities are communicated to young people to increase access and awareness, both in their local community and the Yukon at large. This may include going to youth spaces (i.e., in school, clubs, youth organizations), connecting with young people through social media, hosting more information-sharing events or informal gatherings, and connecting with folks present in young people's networks (i.e., their families, friends, teachers). Meeting young people where they're at includes speaking in ways young people relate to and using clear language. Urgent need for a central hub to connect young people with what's happening in the community.

3.4 TRAINING FOR RECREATION CAPACITY

Build a sustainable plan to increase human resources capacity for recreation and youth programs throughout the Yukon. Increase developmental opportunities for young recreation staff such as training or crash courses. For example, the Recreation North Training Program. Focus on culturally responsive and trauma-informed care, including awareness of intergenerational trauma.

3.5 FUNDING FOR RECREATION CAPACITY

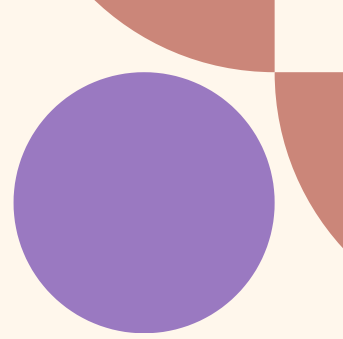
Allocate funding to support staffing and operational capacity of recreation and youth programs throughout the Yukon. This includes funding for staff, coaches, gear, and participation costs. Participation costs are a significant barrier preventing many youth from participating in recreation programs.

3.6 HEALTHY MENTORS & POSITIVE ROLE MODELS

Engage positive role models to be more involved in young peoples' lives, particularly those that represent underserved demographics such as First Nations, female, queer, and gender-diverse role models. Involve more healthy male mentors in the lives of young men and boys. Develop programming based on positive relationship building between youth and staff, and youth to youth. Have more spaces where youth can actively engage on their own, at their own level, with cultural support workers, and learn from Elders. Increase training opportunities for mentors.

3.7 MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Building the capacity of mental health services (i.e., clinical counsellors) and cultural supports in the communities to reduce dependence on Whitehorse-based services. Promote and support the resources already in the community first before bringing others in.



3.8 INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS

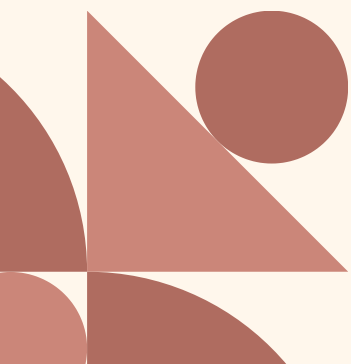
Provide more opportunities where all young people can connect with Elders, knowledge holders, and other role models through engaging in activities and programs together. Focus on keeping First Nations languages alive. Hold space for interactive experiences between generations to make it meaningful and allow space for older generations to listen to youth's priorities.

3.9 SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Create more programs for caregivers to learn skills and be involved in the lives of young people, such as traditional parenting, parent/guardian support groups, child development programs, and father-specific programs. Create programming that is at accessible times for caregivers and is consistent. Offer programs that are specific to youth who are caregivers.

3.10 REDUCE STIGMA & INCREASE SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL WELLNESS CHALLENGES

Reach out and care for young people who are struggling with their mental wellness and invite them to participate in healing activities and relationships. Create peer to peer counselling in schools and the community. Integrate coaching on coping skills for how to work through mental wellness challenges as a young person transitioning into adulthood. Communicate to youth what a counsellor can assist with and how to access counselling.



4. ACCESS TO LEARNING AND EDUCATION

4.1 SENSE OF BELONGING IN SCHOOLS

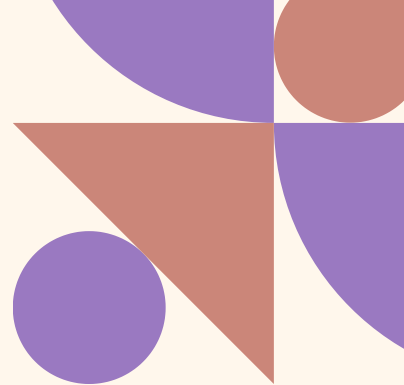
Maintain cultures in schools that respect the autonomy, dignity, and mental wellness of young people. Support Yukon educators to prioritize the Ready To Learn approach through relationship-building with students and strengthen their capacity to engage positively with youth, especially youth with marginalized identities, newcomers, and/or are neurodiverse. Focus on creating a safe culture for the entire school in order to prevent safe spaces from becoming exclusive.

4.2 EDUCATORS SUPPORT

Help educators consistently use and understand the value of curricular tools that support youth belonging. For example, traditional teachings & knowledge, Individualized Learning Plans, and inquiry-based knowledge assessment. Increase school prioritization for all cultural events to support students' sense of belonging. Support educators to prioritize the process of learning over product and to consistently use interdisciplinary curriculum teaching and assessment.

4.3 PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS' INVOLVEMENT IN LEARNING

Engage parents and caregivers in young people's learning process through participation in parent-teacher interviews, school events, and cultural events. Establish the school as a community hub through family nights, after-school recreation, land-based learning, etc. Reinstating family nights in schools, such as the former "Whole Child Program", bridges the gaps between school, family, and community.



4.4 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

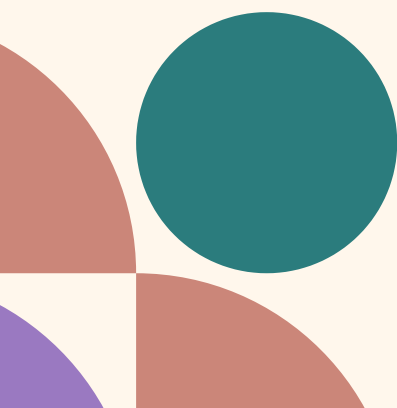
Increase the number of alternative education pathways such as the Individual Learning Centre, Aurora Virtual School, the Indigenous Academy at F.H. Collins, Teen Parent Centre, the Wild School, Wood Street Centre etc. Increase the accessibility and capacity of these crucial programs. Ensure equitable access of land-based, experiential, and traditional knowledge for all students to meet the diversity of learning needs. Redefine class structure and time schedules in secondary schools to promote use of traditional teaching and new curriculum opportunities.

4.5 WRAPPING SCHOOL AROUND CULTURE

Integrate Indigenous knowledge and history into all parts of Yukon’s curriculum, including deeper discussions surrounding experiences of systemic oppression and marginalization experienced by Indigenous people, as well as conversations that celebrate Indigenous cultures, traditional knowledge, and resilience. Support schools to prioritize integrating school credits into experiences such as traditional skills (hunting, skinning, etc) and working with Elders. Use Elders and traditional knowledge teachers more consistently in all learning settings and focus on a depth of knowledge rather than breadth of content.

4.6 DEVELOPMENT OF ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Create more curricular and extracurricular opportunities which explore essential “life skills”. Specifically: finances (budgeting and taxes), food (growing food, grocery shopping, cooking), navigating systems (healthcare, purchasing or renting homes, awareness of community resources), driving skills, communication skills, and social and emotional learning.



4.7 HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS & CONSENT

Increase the frequency of discussions around healthy relationships, gender and sexuality, and sexual health, and introduce conversations at an earlier age in an age-appropriate manner in both curricular and extracurricular programs. Discuss consent within the context of all healthy relationships, not just sexual relationships. Workshops and curriculum should include education for all on 2SLGBTQIA+.

4.8 TRAINING ON RESPONDING TO UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Teach about healthy relationships at a younger age so kids have a better understanding of abuse/toxic relationships. Educators need to be informed on what a consensual relationship looks like and the kinds of relationships they encourage young people to be in, and understand the protocol in supporting young people who have disclosed an incident. Provide workshops and training for young people and adult supporters to learn how to identify when an incident may be occurring, how to take action, and how to keep themselves safe.

4.9 SUPPORT RESOURCES IN SCHOOLS

Increase the number of counsellors and educational assistants (EAs) present in schools and increase access to EAs for all students, especially traditional language EAs. Support therapy animals to be available in all schools. Increase the number of counsellors and consistent access to counsellors. Increase opportunities for Elders to work within the schools. Increase the number of professionals informed on mental health and trauma in schools.

5. EMPLOYMENT & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

5.1 EXPOSURE TO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Increase the number of presentations in high schools, career fairs, and careers classes, so that young people have a better understanding of their career options (trades, University, College, other work, etc.), particularly at the secondary level. Prioritize learning opportunities in the Yukon for healthcare professional roles. For example, Yukon University's Practical Nurse program. Bring students out to work sites to be exposed to what jobs/careers are out there, especially for youth in remote communities.

5.2 WORK-STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

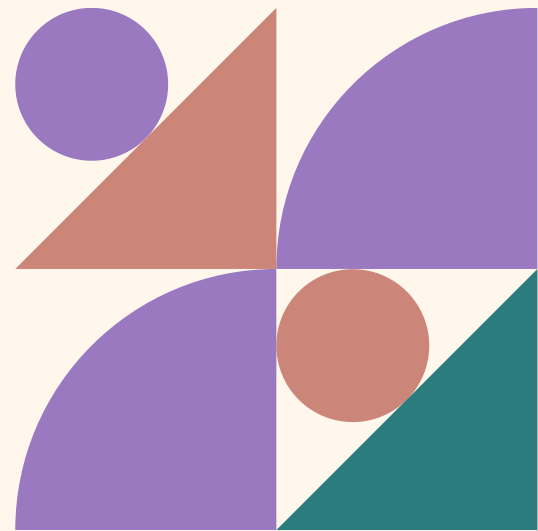
Increase the number of work-study and co-op program opportunities for young people to gain skills and employment experience while receiving academic credit, especially for students in grade 11 and 12. Partner with Yukon University to create more Community Engaged Learning/Experiential Learning opportunities for students to synthesize theory and practice, gain work experience, and support local community organizations.

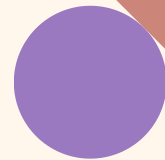
5.3 EMPLOYER SUPPORT FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Invest more in wage subsidy programs that support employers to hire young people effectively for entry level positions and support their skill development, especially for young people with barriers to employment such as Intellectual Disability and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder. Train and support employers on how to best engage youth employees and develop their skills.

5.4 YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Increase the number of training and employment opportunities for young people in remote communities in order to increase the labour capacity of remote communities. Invest in diverse local businesses that create employment opportunities for young people. Increase mentorship and access to entrepreneurial opportunities and training.





6. LAND & STEWARDSHIP

6.1 LAND BASED PROGRAMMING AND HEALING

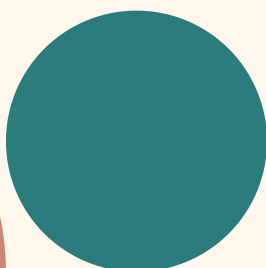
Invest in more land-based infrastructure and programming opportunities through the form of culture camps, community gatherings, sweat lodges, hunting trips, etc. Increase access for youth to explore their culture and self through fire keeper training and mentorship and more informal gatherings and hosting fires.

6.2 CLIMATE ACTION & STEWARDSHIP

Prioritize conversations about climate change and education surrounding sustainability, climate change resilience, and mitigation to protect our land now and for future generations. Implement the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change Our Recommendations, Our Future: 27 Programs and Policies to Embolden the Yukon's Climate Action (2021).

6.3 RENEWABLE ENERGY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Invest in developing career opportunities in renewable energy for young people. Increase understanding and connection to career opportunities in Lands and Heritage departments and/or sectors.



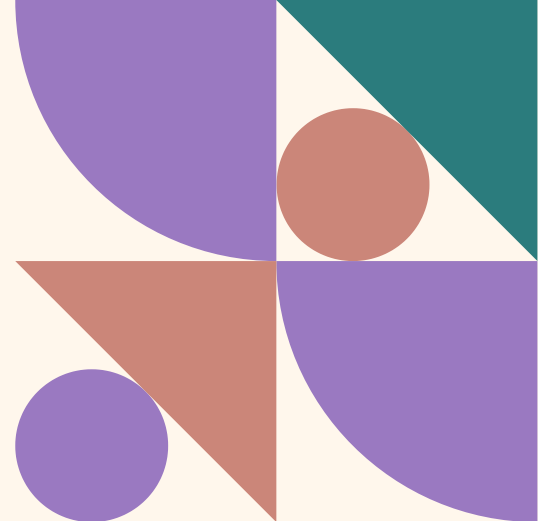
APPENDIX A

Over the past many years of youth-focused programs, events, campaigns, presentations, academic sources, legislation, and research projects have informed the development of the TYS. The list includes many sources that cannot possibly all be named. Here are some of the main sources of information:

YOUTH FOCUSED EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT

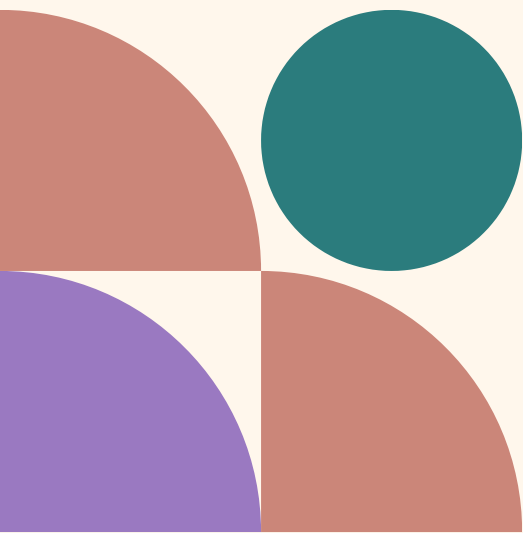
- 2023 Yukon Youth Summit (Youth of Today Society & CBYF Yukon, Apr 2023)
- 2022-2023 Collective Impact sessions in some Yukon communities with young people and youth-service leaders (Carmacks, Dawson City, Faro, Haines Junction, Mayo, Teslin, Watson Lake, and Whitehorse)
- Empowering School Communities Project (CBYF, 2022-2023, and 2021)
- 2022 Yukon Youth Summit (Youth of Today Society, Apr 2022)
- Youth Pathways to Leadership Project and Survey (CBYF Yukon, 2022)
- Supporting Students' Sense of Belonging in Schools (CBYF, 2021, presented at the Annual Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards, and Committees Gathering in October 2021)
- Youth Town Halls (KDFN and Youth of Today Society, 2018-2021)
- UNICEF Change Summit (BGC Yukon & UNICEF, 2019)
- Northern Youth Want Project (BYTE, 2022-ongoing)
- Yukon Youth Want Campaign (BYTE, 2013-ongoing)

INPUT & EVIDENCE



COMMUNITY REPORTS

- Youth Mental Health Research and Services (Yukon Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research, 2023)
- Yukon Youth Calls to Action (CBYF Yukon, 2022)
- Our Recommendations, Our Future: 27 Programs and Policies to Embolden the Yukon's Climate Action (Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change, 2021)
- School Attendance Review (Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office, 2021)
- Youth Engagement Report (CBYF Yukon, 2021)
- Youth Research Project (Northern Council for Global Cooperation, 2021)
- Whitehorse Point in Time Count (Safe at Home Society, 2021)
- A Place To Call Home (Blood Ties Four Directions, 2021)
- One Death Is Too Many: Grappling with the Overdose Epidemic in the Yukon (Getting to Tomorrow Yukon, 2021)
- Strengthening Our Connections To Promote Life: A Life Promotion Toolkit by Indigenous Youth (Thunderbird Partnership Foundation, 2021)
- Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-spirit+ People Strategy (Yukon Advisory Committee, 2020)
- GlobalChild research project (Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office, 2018-2019)



GOVERNMENT REPORTS

- Putting People First: 2022 Annual Report (Government of Yukon, 2022)
- Yukon Housing (Office of the Auditor General of Canada, 2022)
- Evaluation of Pathways to Education, final report (Employment and Social Development Canada, 2022)
- Mental Health Services in Rural Yukon—Department of Health and Social Services (Office of the Auditor General of Canada, 2021)
- 40 Developmental Assets (Search Institute, adapted by Government of Yukon’s Youth Directorate, 2020)
- Health Behaviours in School-aged Children (HSBC) study (Government of Yukon and Queen’s University, 2010, 2014, 2018, data for 2022 coming)
- Kindergarten Through Grade 12 Education in Yukon—Department of Education (Office of the Auditor General of Canada, 2019)

ADDITIONAL INPUTS

- 2023 Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Yukon Liberal Caucus and the Yukon NDP Caucus (Yukon Liberal Caucus, 2023)
- “Ensure that all schools in the Yukon have safe spaces for LGBTQ2S+ students in the form of student activities or organizations” (Legislative Assembly of Yukon, Bill 304: Act to Amend the Education Act, 2022)