



**Village of Haines Junction
January 24, 2024**

Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held in Council Chambers. Attendance at this meeting is also available through Zoom web or teleconferencing (see below for instructions).

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Acknowledgement of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Traditional Territory**
- 3. Adoption of Agenda**
- 4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**
- 5. Adoption of Minutes of Regular and Special Council Meetings**
 - a. Draft Council Minutes January 10, 2024
- 6. Proclamations**
- 7. Delegations**
- 8. Public Hearings and Public Input Sessions**
- 9. Old Business**
 - a.
- 10. New Business**
 - a. RTC – Accounts Payable to January 24, 2024
 - b. RTC – Tax Lien Summary
 - c. RTC – 2023 Audit Plan
 - d. RTC – Awarding of 2023 Donated Refundables Funds
- 11. Bylaws – Reports, Readings and Adoption**
- 12. Correspondence**
 - a. Letter from CYFN and AYC to Premier Pillai re Opioid Crisis
 - b. Response Letter from Premier Pillai to CYFN and AYC re: Opioid Crisis
- 13. Council Reports**
- 14. Questions from the Public**
- 15. Motion to Close Meeting to the Public**
- 16. Adjournment**

The next Regular Council Meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. on February 14, 2024 in Council Chambers and via Zoom.

*The Village of Haines Junction respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on the
Traditional Territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8676347100>

Meeting ID: 867 634 7100

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 867 634 7100

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8676347100>

Please call the Village Office (634-7100) during regular office hours for assistance in joining via zoom.

Municipal Accounts Payable to January 24, 2024

<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Description</u>
Transfer	Payroll Account #4305418	\$ 26,231.63	Administration	Net Pay - Pay Period 1
		\$ 3,577.84	Administration	RRSP Contribution - Pay Period 1
		\$ 6,620.06	Administration	Group Insurance Pay Period 1
		\$ 20,280.64	Administration	Receiver General December 2023
	Visa	\$ 1,798.63	Administration	Office supplies, rec.grant, postage, contr.subscr.
		\$ 25.17	Arena	Tools
		\$ 185.29	Convention Centre	Faucet, valve flusher, keys
		\$ 1,014.88	Legislative	Open house, hotel Diane Strand
		\$ 3,019.01	Public Works	Equipment maint., tools, safety clothing, paint
		\$ 48.28	Water & Sewer	Chemicals
	15042 Yukon Inc.(Grime Stoppers Janitorial)	\$ 256.20	Administration	Table cloths cleaning
	535561 Yukon Inc. Little Green Apple	\$ 3,012.19	Administration	Replacement Cheque for 27803
	535561 Yukon Inc. Little Green Apple	\$ 486.94	Legislative	CAFN joint meeting
	Acera Insurance	\$ 180,107.00	Administration	Annual Insurance
	Advance Security & Automation Ltd.	\$ 173.25	Convention Centre	Alarm Monitoring January 1-March 31, 2024
	Ajax Steel Limited	\$ 221.38	Public Works	Wire braid, hose fitting
	ALS Canada Ltd.	\$ 101.85	Water & Sewer	Water sampling test
	Association Of Yukon Communities	\$ 425.00	Administration	Inter-Municipal Business Licences #1-3
	BC/Yukon Royal Legion	\$ 1,155.00	Administration	Military Service Recognition Book
	CIMCO	\$ 539.28	Arena	Service Reports
	Ellen Stutz - Petty Cash	\$ 964.50	Recycling Centre	Paid out refundables

Municipal Accounts Payable to January 24, 2024

Entandem		\$	99.39	Convention Centre	Music licensing fees
Harris & Company		\$	8,465.11	Administration	Legal Fees
Inland Kenworth		\$	508.03	Public Works	Hydraulic oil
Jacobs Industries	\$ 747.60			Fire department	Compressed Air
	\$ 373.28	\$	1,120.88	Water & Sewer	Barbon Dioxide
Lidstone & Company		\$	168.00	Administration	Legal Fees
MCC Magazines LLC (Milepost)		\$	2,160.00	Administration	Milepost Advertising
SBC Insurance Agencies Ltd.		\$	165.00	Administration	Insurance premium adjustment
Source Motors Ltd.	\$ 3,128.50			Arena	Heating fuel December 2023
	\$ 366.00			Arena	Propane December 2023
	\$ 3,850.03			Fire Hall	Heating fuel December 2023
	\$ 2,585.39			Administration	Heating fuel December 2023
	\$ 2,585.40			Convention Centre	Heating fuel December 2023
	\$ 1,219.14			Recycling Centre	Heating fuel December 2023
	\$ 445.48			Landfill & Recycling	Gas December 2023
	\$ 2,707.56			Public Works	Gas December 2023
	\$ 197.24			Public Works/Parks	Gas December 2023
		\$	17,084.74	Fire Department	Gas December 2023
Superior Propane		\$	1,832.74	Public Works	Utilities heat
Tangerine Technology		\$	3,627.93	Administration	Network Equipment, mouse and keyboard
Xerox		\$	148.64	Administration	Printing and Photocopies
Yukon Service Supplies	\$ 595.35			Water & Sewer	Hypochlorite
	\$ 316.89	\$	912.24	Convention Centre	Dish Detergent

Municipal Accounts Payable to January 24, 2024

Municipal Accounts Payable

\$ 286,536.72

Adopted on _____ Motion# _____

Mayor _____ CAO _____

**Report to Council
Village of Haines Junction
January 24, 2024**

RE: TAX LIEN SUMMARY

Recommendation

That Council accept this report and attached tax lien summary for information.

Background

The *Yukon Assessment and Taxation Act* is the principal legal statute governing property taxation and assessment of fee-simple land in the Yukon. The *Act* delegates authority to municipalities to levy and collect taxes on lands within municipal boundaries and to apply the tax lien process against titled lands within their municipality for which property tax payments are in arrears. The property taxation year is a calendar year and property taxes are due and payable no later than July 2nd of the year in which they are levied. Fee-simple properties for which taxes remain unpaid 6 months after this due date become subject to management under the tax lien process, which provides a means for tax authorities to collect unpaid taxes.

The preparation of Form TL1 Tax Lien Summary is the first activity required in the process. The list is prepared annually by the Treasurer and a copy is forwarded to the Collector (Council) for information. This will be followed by the publication of the list in a Yukon newspaper and local postings which are used to notify fee-simple property owners that a tax lien will be filed against their property unless the arrears are paid within 60 days from the date of publication.

Conclusion

Council by reviewing this report will be exercising their oversight role as the taxing authority of the municipality.

Prepared by

Donna Istchenko, Treasurer

January 11, 2024

Village of Haines Junction
Box 5339
Haines Junction, YT Y0B 1L0

via e-mail: finance@hainesjunction.ca

Attention: Village Council Members

Dear Village Council Members:

Re: 2023 AUDIT PLAN

A. INTRODUCTION

The objectives of this letter are as follows:

- a) To communicate clearly with Council our responsibilities in relation to the financial statement audit, and provide an overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit;
- b) To obtain from Council information relevant to the audit;
- c) To provide Council with timely observations arising from the audit that are significant and relevant to Council's responsibility to oversee the financial reporting process; and
- d) To promote effective two-way communication between the auditor and Council.

Clear two-way communication between the auditor and those charged with governance (Council) is an integral part of every audit. After reviewing the audit plan, please advise us whether there are additional areas of concern to Council which we should consider.

This letter should not be distributed without the prior consent of Metrix Group LLP and Metrix Group LLP accepts no responsibility to a third party who uses this communication.



B. SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

We have been engaged to perform the following services:

a) Audit services

- Audit of the Village of Haines Junction financial statements.

b) Non-audit services

- We have not been engaged to provide any non-audit services.

C. AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE

At the core of the provision of external audit services is the concept of independence. Canadian Auditing Standards recommends that we communicate to Council, at least annually, all relationships between our firm and the Village that, in our professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.

We are currently not aware of any relationships between the Village and ourselves that, in our professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence. We will provide our annual letter confirming our independence up to the date of our report at the conclusion of the audit.

D. AUDITOR RESPONSIBILITIES

It is important for Council to understand the responsibilities that rest with the Village and its management and those that belong to the auditor in relation to the financial statement audit.

Our audit of the Village's financial statements will be performed in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable about whether the financial statements as a whole present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position, results of operations and cash flows of the Village in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. Accordingly, we will plan and perform our audit to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance of detecting fraud and errors that have a material effect on the financial statements taken as a whole, including illegal acts whose consequences have a material effect on the financial statements.

Canadian Auditing Standards do not require the auditor to design procedures for the purpose of identifying supplementary matters to communicate to Council.

E. MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

F. PLANNED SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE AUDIT

In gathering our audit evidence, we will utilize an approach to the audit of the Village that allows us to issue an audit opinion on the financial statements in the most cost-effective manner, while still obtaining the assurance necessary to support our audit opinion. In performing our audit, our work will be focused on, but not limited to, areas that we believe have a higher risk of being materially misstated.

To assess risk correctly, we will require a clear understanding of the Village's business and the environment it operates in. We will gain this understanding primarily through discussions with management and staff.

Audit Strategy

Based on our knowledge of the Village, we anticipate utilizing a combination of tests of relevant internal controls and substantive procedures (analysis of data and obtaining direct evidence as to the validity of the items such as third-party confirmation). This type of approach is more appropriate when an entity processes a high volume of transactions and has strong internal controls. By obtaining some of our assurance through tests of controls, we can reduce the substantive procedures that are required.

Significant Risks

Significant risks are identified and assessed risks of material misstatement that, in the auditors' judgment, require special audit consideration. We have identified the following significant risks.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue recognition is presumed to be a significant risk in every financial statement audit. Our audit approach will include examining revenue recognition policies and grant agreements to ensure revenue is being recognized appropriately.

Management Override of Controls

Canadian Auditing Standards stipulates that management override of controls is considered a significant risk in every financial statement audit. To reduce this risk to an acceptable level, our audit approach will include substantive procedures including testing of manual journal entries, reviews of irregular transactions, and assessing key estimates for potential bias.

Landfill Closure & Post-Closure Liability

The Village's liabilities include an estimate for the future closure and post-closure costs of the landfill. The risk of material misstatement is higher in this area due to the complexity of, and judgment involved in, these calculations. However, the risk is mitigated due to the fact that the Village uses a report prepared by a consultant to assist with and provide various information to support these calculations.

Materiality

Materiality in an audit is used as a guide for planning the nature and extent of audit procedures and for assessing the sufficiency of audit evidence gathered. It is also used in evaluating the misstatements found and determining the appropriate audit opinion to express.

A misstatement, or the aggregate of all misstatements in financial statements, is considered to be material if, in the light of surrounding circumstances, it is probable that the decision of a person who is relying on the financial statements, and who has a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities (the user), would be changed or influenced by such misstatement or the aggregate of all misstatements. The materiality decision ultimately is based on the auditors' professional judgment.

Canadian Auditing Standards require the use of both quantitative and qualitative factors in determining materiality. In planning our audit, we have concluded that a materiality level of the lower of 2% of operating revenue or expenses is appropriate. However, we anticipate that management will record any adjustments that we propose that are of a non-trivial nature.

Audit Team

Our team includes skilled professionals who have experience working on local government audits. We will provide the following team:

Engagement Partner	Philip Dirks, CPA, CA
Senior	Stephen Webber, CPA
Junior	Jad Farhat (CPA student)

Timing of the Audit

We completed audit planning in January 2024.

The year-end audit fieldwork is scheduled to take place during April 2024.

We anticipate presenting the audited financial statements to Village Council at a May 2024 Council meeting.

Management Representations

Management's representations are integral to the audit evidence we will gather. Prior to the release of our report, we will require management's representations in writing to support the content of our report.

G. NEW PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING BOARD STANDARDS

The following is a summary of recently issued *Public Sector Accounting Board* pronouncements. We encourage the Village's accounting staff to review these to determine the potential impact to the Village.

Effective Fiscal Years Beginning on or After April 1, 2022

PS 3280 – Asset Retirement Obligations

- Establishes standard that addresses the accounting and reporting of legal obligations associated with the retirement of tangible capital assets.
- Includes obligations associated with solid waste landfill sites covered under *PS 3270 – Solid Waste Landfill Closure & Post-Closure Liability*.
- Earlier adoption is permitted.

Effective Fiscal Years Beginning on or After April 1, 2023

PS 3400 – Revenue

- Establishes a standard that addresses the accounting and reporting of revenue not previously addressed in the CPA Canada Public Sector Accounting Handbook.
- Provides a framework for recognizing revenue by distinguishing between revenue that arises from transactions that include performance obligations from transactions that do not have performance obligations.
- Earlier adoption is permitted.

H. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL

During the course of your duties as the Council, you may become aware of additional areas of concern, from an audit perspective, that you would like us to address. We welcome discussion on any areas of audit concern that Council may have.

Additionally, we request that you inform us (prior to the commencement of our year-end work) whether Council has knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud affecting the Village.

I. AUDIT FEES

We understand that the Village demands value and we strive to provide the highest quality services while working with the Village to control costs.

We estimate our audit fees for the 2023 fiscal year will be in the amount of \$19,500. This estimate, which does not include GST or out-of-pocket expenses (estimated at \$2,200), is based on the assumption that our responsibilities will be limited to the expression of an opinion on the Village's financial statements. We will not be required to perform accounting work, prepare working papers, or provide any other non-audit responsibilities.

J. COMMUNICATION OF THE RESULTS

At the completion of our audit, we will communicate to Council matters arising from the financial statement audit. Our communication will include the following:

- Matters required to be communicated to the Council under Canadian Auditing Standards including possible fraudulent activities, possible illegal acts, significant weaknesses in internal control and certain related party transactions;
- Our views about significant qualitative aspects of the Village's accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates, and financial statement disclosures;
- Other matters, if any, arising from the audit that, in our professional judgment, are significant to the oversight of the financial reporting process; and
- Any other matters previously agreed to with Council.

We trust this communication will provide you with an update on the current developments within the accounting profession as well as clarify our responsibilities and audit approach.

Please do not hesitate to contact us about any of the above items or other matters of concern to Village Council.

Yours truly,

METRIX GROUP LLP



Philip J. Dirks, CPA, CA
Partner

cc: David Fairbank, Chief Administrative Officer



Village of Haines Junction
Report to Council

January 10, 2024

Council Decision
 Council Direction
 Council Information
 Closed Meeting

RE: Awarding of 2023 Donated Refundables Funds

Recommendation

That Council

- Allow the two late applications to be eligible for funding.
- Evenly distribute available funds of \$6332.60 to the following six Community Groups: Creative Junction, Haines Junction Football Club, Haines Junction Parent Association, Junction Arts and Music, Romp and Run, St. Elias Ski Club, thereby awarding each group \$1055.44.
- Revise the policy to extend the deadline into the new year, as many people are gone or busy with the holidays and may miss this opportunity for funding.
- Revise procedures to send letters of invitation to Community Groups in Haines Junction to ensure all are aware of this funding opportunity.

Background

This procurement process is carried out under the [Village's Donation of Refundable Items Policy #31-20](#). This policy defines the process for distributing the refund money collected from the donation of refundable items ("refundables") at the Haines Junction Recycle Centre.

The policy:

- Requires staff to publicly advertise the annual intake deadline for a minimum of three (3) weeks in at least three (3) prominent locations in the community, with at least one location being digitally and at least one location in hard copy format.
- Establishes the following eligibility criteria:
 - Community Groups must be based out of, or have a chapter of the organization based out of, the greater Haines Junction/Dakwākāda Region
 - Have a minimum of 5 active members.
 - Have a minimum annual budget of \$250.
 - Have been operating during the current calendar year.
 - Provide arts, sports, recreational and/or cultural programming to the community.
- Requires Community groups to complete and submit their applications by the advertised deadline to be considered.
- Requires the deadline for applications to be no later than December 31 of each year.
- Requires monies to be distributed evenly between Eligible Community Groups, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

- Allows Council to allocate funds to another community initiative, or to the following year, should no applications be received.

Current Status

The attached poster was advertised on November 23, 2023, 5.5 weeks prior to the application deadline. The poster was advertised according to our Administrative Procedures for Communicating Public Notices -- the poster was posted on noticeboards in town, on our website, on Facebook, and sent to our email distribution list.

The deadline for applications was January 2, 2024, the first day the Village Office reopened following closures over the holiday break.

This year we received 7 applications. Applications were assessed by the Donated Refundables Fund Application Review Board (consisting of 3 Village Staff) for eligibility. Per Table 1, four of the seven applications were considered eligible per the criteria in the policy. Two were considered ineligible because they were submitted after the deadline, and one was considered ineligible for several reasons including: it was not submitted by a Community Group having a minimum of 5 active members, and it did not involve the provision of arts, sports, recreational and/or cultural programming.

Table 1: Eligibility of Applications per the [Village's Donation of Refundable Items Policy #31-20](#).

Adjudication of Applications to Donated Recyclables Fund								
Authority:		Donation of Refundable Items Policy #31-20						
Funds to allocate from 2023:								
Review Committee:		Donna Itschenko, Ellen Stutz, Aynsile Ogden						
Community Group	Eligibility Criteria (Per Schedule B)					Submitted prior to Application Deadline*	Application is Complete?	Eligible?
	Based out of greater HJ Region	Have Minimum of 5 Active Members	Have a minimum annual budget of \$250	Have been operating during current calendar year	Provides arts, sports, recreational and/or cultural programming to the community			
Cathy Mckinnon	Yes	No	Financial statements not provided	Yes	No	Yes	No	Ineligible -- see note***
Creative Junction Collective	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Eligible
HJ Football Club	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Eligible
HJ Parent Association	Yes	Yes	Financial statements not provided	Yes	Yes	No	Financial statements not provided	Ineligible -- see note*
Junction Arts and Music	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Ineligible -- see note*
Romp and Run	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Eligible
St Elias Ski Club	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Eligible

*Per the policy, Community groups must complete and submit their application by the advertised deadline to be considered
**Per the policy, funds shall be distributed evenly between eligible community groups unless there are extenuating circumstances, which shall be included in Board's recommendation to Council
***If no applications are received, the Board shall make a recommendation to Council whether to allocate the Funds to the following year or to another community initiative

Discussion/Analysis

Per Table 2, the amount of funds to distribute has been steadily increasing over the past three years. The value of donated refundables almost doubled in 2023 from what was donated in 2021.

Administration recommends allow the 2 late applications for the following reasons:

- This would make funds available to benefit as many community members as possible.

We recommend revising policy to extend the deadline to be outside of the holiday season which may encourage more groups to apply, and revising procedures to provide invitation letters to local community groups to ensure they are aware of this funding opportunity.

Table 2: Allocation of funds in 2021 and 2022, and recommended allocation for 2023

Year	Total funds	Augusto!	Creative Junction	Romp & Run	Grad	JAM	Ski Club	Soccer
2021	\$3476.90	\$869.23	\$869.23	\$869.23	\$869.23	n/a	n/a	n/a
2022	\$4927.15	n/a	\$985.43	\$985.43	\$985.43	\$985.43	\$985.43	n/a
2023	\$6332.60	n/a	\$1055.44	\$1055.44	\$1055.44	\$1055.44	\$1055.44	\$1055.44

Next Steps

With Council’s approval, we will proceed award funding to the successful applicants.

Draft Resolution

THAT Administration proceed to award funds to successful applicants as recommended in the January 24, 2024 RTC - Awarding of 2023 Donated Refundables Funds.

Prepared by

Aynslie Ogden
Corporate Manager

DONATED REFUNDABLES FUND
More than \$5,000 in funding available!

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

JANUARY 2, 2024

The Haines Junction Recycle Centre accepts donated refundable items throughout the year. The refund money collected is held in a Donated Refundables Fund to be awarded on an annual basis to eligible community groups, as per the Donation of Refundable Items Policy #31-20.

Eligibility Guidelines and the Donated Refundables Fund Application Form are available from the Village Office or online:

Eligibility Guidelines :

hainesjunction.ca/p/village-policies

Application Form:

hainesjunction.ca/p/funding-opportunities

Please contact the Village Office at 634-7100 or admin@hainesjunction.ca for more information.





Council of Yukon First Nations



Nov 15, 2023

Hon. Ranj Pillai
Premier of Yukon Territory
Yukon Legislative Assembly
PO Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A 2C6

Dear Premier,

On October 24, 2023 the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Association of Yukon Communities jointly hosted the first-ever Chiefs and Mayors Forum (CMF). This historic Forum is the culmination of years of work between our two organizations to enhance and strengthen the intergovernmental relationships between our two orders of government. We would like to take the time to thank your government for providing some of the funding that made the initial Forum possible.

As the CMF continues into the future it will be an important avenue for First Nation and Municipal governments to collectively discuss opportunities and challenges facing their communities. One of the key issues that we discussed at this meeting was the health challenges faced by Yukon communities, and in particular the impacts of the opioid crisis.

As you are aware the Yukon has the unfortunate distinction of leading the country in opioid related deaths per capita. All of our communities are directly harmed by this terrible crisis. The Village of Mayo (VOM) and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun (FNNND) have been particularly impacted by this. As a result, on March 14, 2023, the FNNND declared a state of emergency in their community. As part of this declaration, they also requested that an Action Plan be developed jointly with the Yukon Government, RCMP, and the Village of Mayo that, among other things, would result in an increased police presence in the community and more proactive actions to put an end to these terrible tragedies.

At the CMF we heard from representatives from both the VOM and FNNND that not enough has been accomplished as a result of this state of emergency and many of the issues that led to the original state of emergency still persist.

We jointly request that the Government of Yukon take immediate action to address the concerns brought forward by the community of Mayo as they relate to the opioid crisis and health care.

Thank you for your consideration,



Peter Johnston
Grand Chief
Council of Yukon First Nations



Ted Laking
President
Association of Yukon Communities

CC Chief Hope
First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun
Mayor Ellis
Village of Mayo



Office of the Premier
PO Box 2703 Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

December 13, 2023

Peter Johnston
Grand Chief
Council of Yukon First Nations

By email: peter.johnston@cyfn.net

Ted Laking
President
Association of Yukon Communities

By email: ayced@ayc-yukon.ca

Dear Peter Johnston and Ted Laking,

Re: Action Plan for Opioid Crisis in Mayo

Thank you for your letter dated November 15, 2023. I appreciate the united voice from your organizations about the health and safety challenges faced by Yukon communities, particularly in the Village of Mayo and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun. The Yukon government recognizes the importance of meaningful and robust action plans that will support treatment, prevent further harm, and help the community heal.

The Government of Yukon is committed, through both the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy and *Putting People First*, to ensuring that Yukoners have a voice in health, community safety and wellness in their communities. Our commitment to make Mayo a top priority for the development of community wellness plans is being fulfilled, and the Department of Justice has already started engagement with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun on community safety planning.

We recognize the urgency and importance of moving forward with the community wellness plan initiative as recommended in the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy. We are working to complete necessary preparatory work over the coming weeks and look forward to sharing next steps in the near future about how these plans will be developed and incorporate a diversity of voices.

Mayo is home to many dedicated residents that provide support in mental health care for adults, children and youth. Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services is also committed to providing visiting support services on a regular basis, or more if needed.

- A full-time clinical counsellor lives and works in the village. The counsellor provides support for the community on a regular basis and is available for complex case needs. When appropriate, they attend community meetings and events providing support and education. They also collaborate with the Yukon First Nations Education Directorate and support youth programming at on-the-land events such as Nacho Nyak Dun's culture camp at Ethel Lake. We appreciate and value the counsellor's role in Mayo and will continue to provide collaborative and innovative counselling support services in response to community needs.
- A mental health nurse travels from Dawson City to Mayo every two months, or more if needed, to provide support. The nurse connects with clients and provides information sessions and workshops at community lunches and the Health Centre. One of the topics covered is harm reduction and includes guidance on how to administer Naloxone. Naloxone kits are available through the counsellor, health centre and the liquor store. The mental health nurse also offers support training and answers questions through conversations about harm reduction.
- A child, youth and family counsellor travels monthly from Dawson City to support and provide consultation services to the school counsellor and teachers.
- We are actively recruiting a mental health support worker, who will provide outreach supports to community members living with mental health and/or substance use issues. Representatives from Nacho Nyak Dun are part of the interview panel.

In addition to those working directly in the community:

- Rapid Access Counselling is available to all Yukoners by calling 1-866-456-3838 or (867) 456-3838 to make a counselling appointment within 72 hours.
- Withdrawal Management Services in Whitehorse is a 'first come first served' service. However, if a community contacts Withdrawal Management Services and a bed is available, it will be held to allow the person from the community to travel to Whitehorse.

While these current roles provide immediate support, we are working on long-term approaches with First Nation governments and other partners. Our focus is on the unique needs of a community to provide meaningful support on the complex and interconnected social issues underlying the opioid and substance use crisis.

The Department of Justice is working closely with Mayo and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.

- On September 20, 2023, we held meetings with Chief and Council, RCMP, and representatives from the Village of Mayo to discuss policing needs, community safety planning and the Safer Communities and Neighborhoods (SCAN) program. There are more discussions underway to explore policing needs and alternative approaches to policing.
- That same evening, in partnership with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, the Integrated Restorative Justice Unit hosted a Community Restorative Justice Circle in Mayo. The goal of this circle was to build on the work of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Integrated Restorative Justice Unit to advance restorative justice practices and to bring the community together. This work is ongoing, and the Unit is supporting the First Nation to develop their own restorative justice program.

- On January 16, 2024, we will be hosting a community-wide presentation to provide more awareness on the SCAN program and how it can be used to support the community.

In August 2023, the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy was released. Many partners participated in creating the Strategy, including the Government of Yukon, the Council of Yukon First Nations and First Nation governments. The Strategy's mission is to have partners work together to implement innovative, bold, and evidence-based actions so that substance use related harms are reduced and the health and wellbeing of Yukoners flourishes.

The Strategy's 14 initial priorities include seven that are specific to Yukon communities:

- Implement Planet Youth in Yukon communities.
- Continue to support Yukon communities in creating and implementing community wellness plans.
- Increase frontline support staffing and create more safe and sober housing options for individuals grappling with substance use issues when transitioning from the criminal justice system back into communities.
- Continue to collaborate with Yukon First Nation governments to expand therapeutic courts and other restorative justice approaches in response to substance use-related treatment needs.
- Continue to support effective and accountable policing and enforcement responsive to community needs, taking into account Yukon's modern treaty environment.
- Increase the Government of Yukon's capacity to investigate and for civil remedies to disrupt the distribution of toxic illicit drugs and organized crime in Yukon communities.
- Continue to increase support for Yukon First Nations to develop and implement land-based mental health and substance use treatment options.

We have recently fulfilled the last action through the launch of the Land-Based Health Fund Initiative. Funded by the Government of Yukon and administered by the Council of Yukon First Nations, a total of \$9 million is available over three years until March 31, 2026. This initiative aims to enhance healing and wellness by addressing trauma and grief through connection to traditional practices on the land.

Yukon First Nation governments and Yukon First Nations-led organizations can apply for funding to support any land-based project supporting wellness and healing, including those that expand existing initiatives. Funding has been allocated for these initial actions for the 2023-24 fiscal year. As the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy evolves, we remain committed to allocating the necessary resources to support the safety of all Yukoners.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these important steps and actions towards creating a healthy and safe community for the Village of Mayo and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun. We will announce further updates as new developments and next steps emerge.

I would also like to congratulate the Council of Yukon First Nations and Association of Yukon Communities on the success of the first Chiefs and Mayors Forum. Building and strengthening these types of relationships are beneficial for all Yukoners. We look forward to working together to advocate

for additional support from the Government of Canada to continue to implement actions that will generate opportunities for success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pillai', written in a cursive style.

Premier Pillai

- c. Tracy-Anne McPhee, Minister of Health and Social Services, and Justice
Richard Mostyn, Minister of Community Services