YUKON NDP

Platform

A plan that gets **real results** for Yukoners.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEGEND

- Arts & Culture
- Supporting Black people, Indigenous people & people of colour
- Stronger Communities
- Supporting People Living with Disabilities
- A Stronger Economy
- Improving Education
- Protecting the Environment
- Supporting Indigenous Communities
- Good Government
- Better Healthcare
- Saving People Money
- Affordable Housing
- Improving Infrastructure
- Delivering Justice
- Supporting LGBTQIA2S+
- Supporting Workers
- Welcoming Newcomers
- Reducing Poverty
- Supporting Seniors
- Empowering Women
- Supporting Youth
- Francophone

STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE

Caring for Seniors and Elders 14
Supporting People Living with Disabilities 16
Mental Health 17
Gender-Affirming and Reproductive Care 22

IMPROVING SERVICES THAT MATTER TO YOU

Housing 27
Justice 30
Education 35
Tackling Poverty 42
Youth 44
Newcomers & Immigration 46

AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

Infrastructure 57
Transportation 59
Rural Communities 61
Environment and Climate Change 64

GOOD GOVERNMENT

Good Government 70

Fiscal Framework 78

A MESSAGE FROM

Kate White

At every turn, we've made sure to put people first – because my team and I will have your back, no matter what.

Friends. This is our vision.

When you sit down to read the Yukon NDP's vision for what the future could look like, I hope you see yourself, your neighbours and your community reflected.

We believe that after all of the lessons we learned through the COVID19 pandemic, that we have an opportunity to re-envision and rebuild the new normal. A future where our basic needs of housing, health and happiness are met. A future where we walk softly with the environment, curbing our dependence on fossil fuels, and expanding our northern food security.

This platform is the culmination of thousands of conversations, on doorsteps, in boardrooms and at markets and street corners. We've worked with experts in dozens of fields and incorporated some of the most innovative and creative ideas that Yukoners have to offer.

I don't expect many of you will read this cover-to-cover. That's why we've developed a legend with icons to go with each commitment - each commitment is labelled with icons that indicate which areas of policy it affects. I invite you to flip through and look for the pieces that interest you most.

This plan puts people first and tackles some of the biggest challenges our territory faces. At every turn, we've made sure to put people first - because my team and I will have your back, no matter what.

We want to tackle the housing crisis. We want to work on addressing climate change and mitigating its effects. We are going to make mental health care more accessible and tackle the issue of addictions. We're going to work to improve our education system and give those lowest-paid among us an overdue raise.

In 2021, it's not enough to not be racist. We have to be actively anti-racist. A Yukon NDP government will work hard to honour this work and be meaningfully inclusive of the voices of Black people, Indigenous people and people of colour.

We're going to take on all of these challenges, and more with real, concrete and creative solutions.

This plan is not an exhaustive list of everything we'll do in government; it is the groundwork for our vision. I sincerely hope it speaks to your hopes and dreams for this place we all call home, as it does mine.

All my love,

Kate White

This platform is the culmination of thousands of conversations, on doorsteps, in boardrooms, and at markets and street corners.

SECTION ONE

Strengthening Healthcare

Yukoners expect their healthcare to be there when they need it.

Our approach is to put people at the centre of all decisions a Yukon NDP government makes.

We are committed to following through on the recommendations made by the groundbreaking report Putting People First.

The report outlined many ways that poor planning and misallocation of resources has affected outcomes and quality access to healthcare in the Yukon.

We believe that the government can't act quickly enough to bring all of the recommendations to action. We also believe that there were some gaps and we will work with Yukoners to address those as well.

Everyone needs a family doctor

Problem:
According to the comprehensive healthcare review, approximately 21% of Yukoners do not have access to a family doctor, (otherwise known as a general practitioner, or GP), compared to 15% of Canadians. Many of these Yukoners are vulnerable, such as children, seniors and elders, and those with chronic conditions.

Family doctors, and nurse practitioners, are essential healthcare providers. They are able to provide preventative care that keeps Yukoners healthy, rather than treating illness when it gets serious enough that someone needs to be hospitalised. This leads to better health outcomes, keeps costs lower and helps keep our healthcare system functioning.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP will guarantee that every Yukoner who wants a family doctor will have access to one within four years, through working with healthcare practitioners to establish polyclinics and ensuring other practitioners, such as nurse practitioners, RNs, and dieticians are employed within them.

Making sure your healthcare provider is the right fit for you

Problem:
There is no mechanism for matching patients who have special needs with doctors who have special interests and expertise, and no mechanism for changing doctors should the match between the doctor and patient be insufficient.

Solutions:
- » Maintain a database of doctors who have special interest in working with specific populations with specific needs (e.g. patients who identify as LGBTQIA2S+, patients who have specific chronic diseases, patients with fertility challenges, etc.) and make an effort to match patients and doctors based on these criteria.
- » Institute a process where patients can request a change of doctor based on these criteria.
- » Incorporate this process into a mechanism to monitor and anticipate training needs for the cohort of family doctors and nurse practitioners.

Healthcare solutions that take LGBTQIA2S+ needs into account

Problem:
Putting People First was a groundbreaking document; however, the LGBTQIA2S+ community face specific healthcare challenges and needs which were not addressed. This leaves a significant and widening gap in the health care of many people.

Solution:
Work with the LGBTQIA2S+ community to develop an addendum to the Putting People First report to ensure that the perspectives of this demographic are represented in the delivery of health care in the Yukon.

Attract and retain healthcare providers in all Yukon communities

Problem:
It is very difficult to attract and retain qualified healthcare providers to live and work in the Yukon, especially in the communities.

Solutions:
The Yukon requires a several-pronged approach to healthcare provider attraction and retention. We have developed an approach which will ensure Yukoners have access to enough healthcare practitioners to meet their prevention and treatment needs. Additionally, the medical practitioners working in the Yukon will be mentally and physically prepared for the rigours of the position and will burnout and turnover less often, resulting in better, more compassionate continuity of care.

Our approach includes:
- » Subsidised housing for at least the first year for all practitioners who take a rural posting. This housing will be appropriate to the practitioner's profession as well as to a family life which includes children and pets.
- » Working alongside the Yukon Medical Association and Yukon Registered Nurses Association to appoint liaison officers who love living here and are experienced in working in

the Yukon to provide increased out-of-territory placements for those in the medical field and other direct engagement with universities so we have access to new medical grads at the beginning of their career, before they settle elsewhere.

» Ensuring salaries for medical practitioners are commensurate to what they would earn if they worked elsewhere in Canada with a similar cost of living, and that, where need exists, funded positions are available for practitioners who want to make the Yukon their permanent employer

» Ensuring that practitioners are able to work to their full scope of training so they feel fulfilled and challenged in their chosen field.

» Studies through the pandemic have shown that both doctors and nurses are experiencing severe mental health repercussions - it is essential that the Yukon Registered Nurses Association and Yukon Medical Association are included in solutions for retention in these high-stress fields.

» We will work to attract more hospital-based specialists to live and work in the Yukon (such as internal medicine, etc.) to reduce the burden on general practitioners as well as well as reduce need for out-of-territory care and medevac services.

Equitable, accessible and anti-racist healthcare for everyone

Problem:

Due to systemic racism, there are significant structural inequities in healthcare which result in worse healthcare outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and people of colour (BIPOC) Yukoners.

Solution:

The Yukon NDP will tackle structural racism. Healthcare will become more accessible for all Yukoners as a result of making the healthcare system more equitable and reducing racism across the board.

» The first step will be to introduce mandatory training for all healthcare providers (not just employees of HSS but any government funded healthcare). Additionally, we understand that different communities experience systemic racism in very different ways.

» The second step will be to create a quality improvement system which ensures, not only, that healthcare providers are taking the training, but also to collaboratively and proactively collect information on how practices have changed as a result of the training.

» The third step will be to add "healthcare provider" into the Yukon Human Rights Act under areas of "prohibited discrimination" and to create a board which will be comprised of members who hold expertise on discrimination against racialised people as well as healthcare providers, who will hear complaints against healthcare providers and work with registration bodies to determine consequences and training needs, as necessary.

Accountability within the healthcare profession

Problem:

Yukoners deserve access to the same standard of care as the rest of Canada. Many professionals who

are regulated across Canada are not regulated in the Yukon. This means that there is no-one to complain to, and no way to take professional action against, if an unregulated healthcare professional contravenes professional standards.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP commits to prompt, practical regulation of as yet unregulated healthcare providers in the Yukon, such as midwives, psychologists, social workers and veterinarians, in order to protect Yukoners who receive healthcare and mental healthcare.

Fold paramedics into healthcare services to ensure continuity of care

Problem:
Paramedics are frontline healthcare providers who provide complex prehospital and transport care across the Yukon and into other jurisdictions, and should be recognised as such. Currently, paramedics are not regulated in the Yukon and are a part of the department of Community Services rather than Health and Social Services, which creates silos in care provision.

Solution:
Under a Yukon NDP government, not only will paramedics be regulated within Yukon to ensure standards of care are met, Yukon Emergency Medical Services will become the responsibility of Health and Social Services or Wellness Yukon, when it is created, like every other healthcare service the government offers, to ensure continuity of care for all Yukoners.

Enforceable standards for care homes across the Yukon

Problem:
A lack of standards for care homes across Canada left seniors and elders vulnerable to COVID-19.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP will establish best practice care home standards which must be adhered to by any care home, public or private, operating in the Yukon. These standards will address issues such as staffing ratios, hygiene standards, spacing and room allotment, nutrition, compensation for staff, and mental health and safety standards for individuals with cognitive and mobility decline.

No matter where Yukoners live or what their abilities are, they should never feel that their lives are being weighed against profits or tight budgets. Yukoners in care homes will be safe and well cared for, Yukoners whose family and friends reside in these homes will feel confident that their loved ones are getting the care they deserve, and Yukoners who work in care homes will be allotted the economic dignity they earn every day protecting and nurturing our precious seniors and elders.

Truly universal healthcare: prescription coverage

Problem:
People cannot afford essential prescriptions for their health care. Canada is the only country with nationalized healthcare that does not have a prescription

plan. Many people do not fill prescriptions or do not take them as directed, leading to more complex and more expensive healthcare problems down the line.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP will introduce a healthcare plan which covers generic prescriptions for every Yukoner who does not have prescription coverage through an employer-provided or government-provided program. Additionally, the Yukon NDP will make prescription contraception free to all Yukoners who require it.

Truly universal healthcare: dental coverage

Problem:
People don't go to the dentist because they cannot afford it. This is unacceptable because dental neglect creates systemic health problems with nutrition, cardiac issues, quality of life, inappropriate use of painkillers such as opioids, and repeat visits to the emergency room. People deserve to live with dignity, and oral health is essential to every aspect of life.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP will introduce a basic dental care plan which covers essential (essential does not cover cosmetic or non-healthcare related dental work) dental work and oral hygiene for every Yukoner not currently covered through another employer or government-provided program.

Better prevention

Problem:
The recent comprehensive review of healthcare services indicated that harms associated with alcohol are much higher in the Yukon than the rest of Canada, with $1,100 for each and every Yukoner being spent per year on alcohol-related harms. Alcohol-related admissions to hospitals also continue to climb year on year, limiting bed availability.

Solution:
The solutions to the alcohol harms in the territory must start with prevention. The Yukon NDP would follow the recommendations from the report "Strategies to Reduce Alcohol Related Harms and Costs" by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. In particular, the Yukon NDP would work to label alcohol appropriately and regulate offsales, as well as launching a public prevention campaign to help Yukoners understand the harms of alcohol use and addiction.

Chronic conditions management plan

Problem:
Chronic conditions within the Yukon are not well-managed resulting in millions of dollars of downstream healthcare costs, significant quality of life issues and life expectancy reductions.

Solution:
Nurse-led chronic conditions programs that follow and target the evidence-based management and improvement of chronic conditions. If you have a chronic condition included under the new chronic

conditions program, and you consent to receiving a specialist service, you will be assigned a team which will work with you to help you understand and manage your condition, so that you achieve the highest quality of life possible while living with your condition. Healthcare for all Yukoners will cost less as a result, because there will be fewer medical emergencies resulting from poorly managed chronic conditions.

Chronic pain management plan

Problem:
It has been well-documented that chronic pain is a precursor to many people becoming physically addicted to opiates, moreover, it is almost impossible to enjoy a high quality of life with chronic pain, and many Yukoners wind up paying out of pocket for a variety of treatments in desperation, hoping that something will work, with no clear pathway for management of their chronic pain.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government would recruit or train medical and mental health practitioners to the highest national chronic pain management standards in order to create a polyclinic devoted entirely to the complex treatment and management of chronic pain.

Once diagnosed with chronic pain, Yukoners could be referred to a clinic staffed with specialist GPs, nurses, physios and mental health clinicians trained to the highest standard on chronic pain management. This would not only increase quality of life for Yukoners it would also decrease reliance on opiate prescriptions.

Hemodialysis in the Yukon

Problem:
Yukoners who require hemodialysis must currently reside out-of-territory until they get a kidney transplant or until death.

Solution:
Choice is key to providing both quality care and ongoing quality of life. Under the Yukon NDP, Yukoners will have two options and work with their providers to determine which option is best for them.

Option one is using the highest standards of patient centred care and informed consent, train patients and their caregivers to perform at-home hemodialysis with assistance from a scaled-up homecare program and BC Renal so those who qualify can receive care at home if possible.

Option two is for patients to be treated at a standalone hemodialysis clinic within the Yukon staffed with the appropriate medical professionals. Both options will be available in the Yukon.

The homecare programs' capacity will be increased with the integration of community paramedics, who, like Licensed Practical Nurses, can be trained to assist with hemodialysis at home. These same practitioners can work within the clinic alongside registered nurses and doctors to ensure that no matter where Yukoners receive their care, at home or in clinic, it is safe and meets their needs. Yukoners who require hemodialysis will no longer be required to reside in Vancouver or another critical care centre in order to receive this lifesaving treatment.

Organ donation

Problem:
Yukoners want organ donation to be straightforward and simple, yet ensuring that their wish to donate organs after they die is anything but. With all this red tape, the availability of organs is reduced, which is a tragedy because many people want to donate their organs after their death, but don't know how to ensure this happens.

Solution:
An opt-out system, with a clear procedure for opting out, is an efficient and effective way to ensure that those who wish to donate their organs following their death are able to. The Yukon NDP would develop a straightforward, easy to use opt-out procedure, and following an appropriate grace period, implement an opt out system for organ donation in the Yukon. This will make it easier for people who wish to donate their organs to do so with less red tape and more peace of mind, and make it clear if they wish to opt out through an easy process, so they know that either way, their wishes will be respected.

Making e-health work for you

Problem:
The current e-health infrastructure is completely disjointed and does not allow for easy sharing of information between healthcare providers involved in your care, and does not allow for you to manage your own care.

This can mean care providers are left out of the loop on important information, such as test results, prescriptions, and care plans. It also means you are totally reliant on your healthcare provider sharing information with you, and you have to pay for your own records if you want a copy. The current government has partnered with the federal government to improve this, but they have not emphasised patient rights and control, meaning that Yukoners will be left out of their own care planning.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP will develop healthcare infrastructure that has the capacity to include everyone in your healthcare team, but also includes you as an essential team member in managing your own healthcare.

You will be able to securely review your healthcare records from home, as well as review your own care notes as appropriate. This will make care teams more efficient and accountable, as well as empowering Yukoners in their own healthcare.

SUPPORTING SENIORS AND ELDERS

Yukon seniors and elders deserve to age the way they want, with supports that enable them to make choices, regardless of their financial situation.

Aging in place with dignity

Problem:
Yukon seniors and elders are not adequately supported by the government to age in place, which is often the best living situation for mental, cognitive and physical health outcomes. Caregivers burn out or are not supported to provide the best care possible and families, seniors and elders suffer as a result.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government would ensure that appropriate homecare will be available as needed by every Yukoner, including appropriate coverage on evenings, holidays and weekends, to ensure dignity and safety, and be provided collaboratively with the family.

Seniors and elders will be able to comfortably and safely age in place for a much longer time than they currently are able to. They will feel confident in the care they are receiving, and be able to trust that all basic needs required for quality of life are accounted for.

In order to make this feasible, a bold and evidence-based change to homecare would be implemented. The Yukon currently under-utilizes community paramedicine. Currently, paramedicine is located within the Community Services portfolio despite paramedics being regulated and highly trained healthcare professionals.

Paramedics are mobile, able to work independently, and respond to rapidly changing situations in the field. Paramedics from all across Canada are excited to work in the Yukon and community paramedicine programs are even training paramedics to maximise their skillset in non-emergency community situations.

A Yukon NDP government would move paramedicine back to Health, where it belongs, to increase collaboration between providers, and focus on developing the emerging community paramedicine program to work with Continuing Care's homecare program to bolster existing supports.

In addition, the government would partner with other providers including NGOs and small businesses to provide the services homecare clients require, such as snow shovelling, yard maintenance, and light cleaning, safely, affordably and using an inclusion lens.

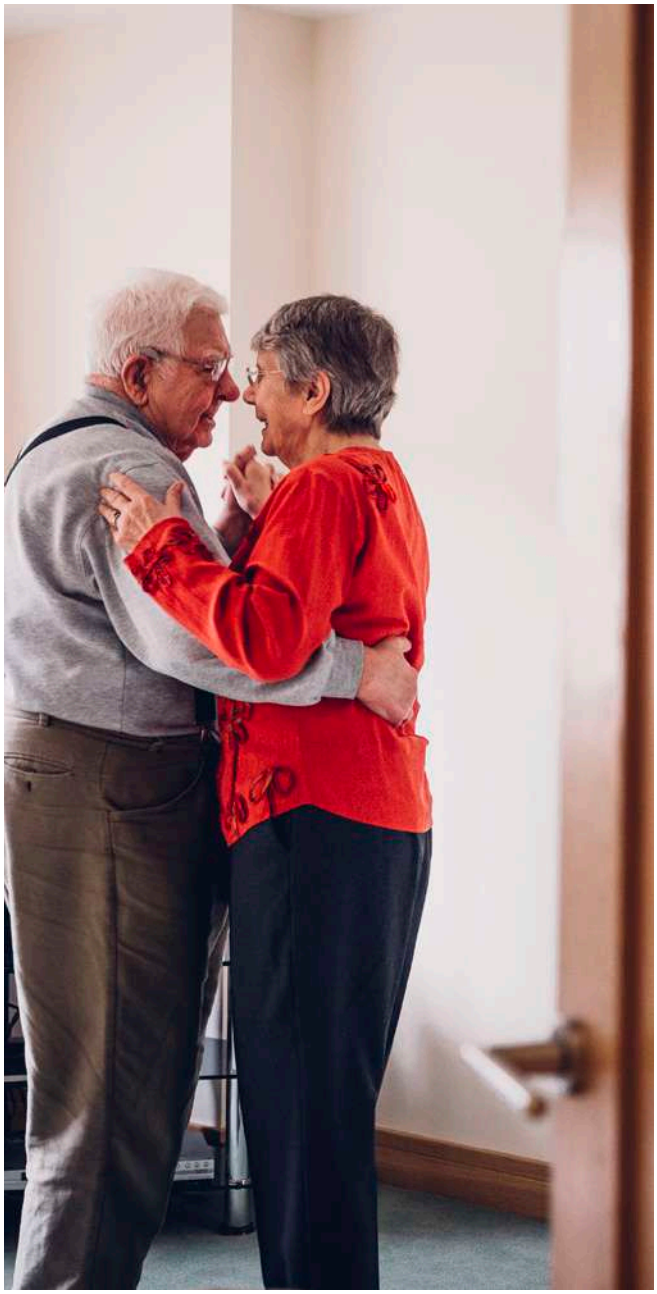
Adequate and appropriate care home spaces

Problem:
Many people who are ready to enter care face wait times which can contribute to declining health outcomes and caregiver burnout, with some Yukoners actually dying while waiting for a spot in situations which are undignified and dangerous.

Solution:
Yukoners who need a place in care shouldn't have to wonder if they will get a place, and if, once they get a place, the care will be culturally safe and if they will be able to live their values for their last years. Yukoners will not wait once they require a care home, and Yukoners in care homes will feel safe, cared-for and fulfilled.

A Yukon NDP government will immediately evaluate the need for long-term care bed spaces based on projections that take into account the need for space now and in the future, so Yukoners aren't left behind when they need this service urgently.

If it is determined that additional beds should be provided, a Yukon NDP government will work with First Nations, Yukon families and seniors groups to understand the wishes, needs and goals of seniors and elders entering care, and build care facilities which represent best practice and Yukon values such as independance, self-determination, connection to the land, and community.



SUPPORTING PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

People living with disabilities deserve to be lifted up by their government, with the freedom to make choices that are right for them.

Making assistive devices accessible

Problem:
The Yukon does not have a comprehensive, equitably provided extended benefits program for all Yukoners, specifically in the areas of assistive devices. There is a complex, incomplete system of multiple government programs which provide funding for some people with restrictive and out-of-date criteria.

At the moment, the Chronic Disease Program is especially restrictive to access. In other provinces, if the condition is expected to last longer than 6 months, the condition is considered long-term.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government would develop a new Yukon Assistive Devices Program that is comprehensive, clearly defined, and equitably administered. Based on the Alberta Aids to Daily Living program, this program would be the payer of last resort, after private insurance or other funding sources have been utilized, ie: NIHB program, WCB, RCMP/Veteran's Affairs.

This approach is in contrast to the current system which is based on eligibility due to age (Pharmacare program) or diagnosis (Chronic Disease Program), or income (Social Assistance). Requests will be assessed on the basis of medical need justified by a referring healthcare provider, and provided by the appropriate service provider.

Ensuring access to disability services for those who need it

Problem:
Disability services is currently not a mandated service. Although people rely on the services from Disability Services to ensure quality of life, and in some cases, services that they are entitled to as a human right, these services can be cut back by government at any time, or paused, such as during the pandemic. This could have catastrophic, even lethal, effects for Yukoners living with disabilities.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government would make the legislative changes necessary to ensure that disability services becomes a mandated service.

MENTAL HEALTH

Much has been done to remove stigma from mental health challenges, and from seeking help. Less has been done to improve access. People seeking help face long waits and high costs.

Tackling youth suicide

Problem:
Data shows that Yukon youth, especially those in rural communities, face a high rate of death and injury from suicide, relative to their counterparts in the southern and more urban centres. Our youth are precious and deserve far better. Suicide prevention is a challenge that must be taken up, in earnest, by the Yukon government.

Solutions:
A Yukon NDP government would immediately prioritize the reduction of youth suicide through increased mental health supports, peer-led support, accessible recreation opportunities, and First Nation and NGO involvement.

» An important aspect of mental wellness for youth are services that youth feel comfortable, supported, and interested in accessing. A Yukon NDP government would work with youth organizations to re-envision the mental health supports offered across the Yukon to ensure that children and youth have timely access to effective services they need and want.

» There is currently no child and youth psychiatrist resident in the Yukon and providing consistent services for children and youth. With the severe mental health crisis our youth are facing, this is a serious gap. The Yukon NDP would work to recruit and retain a local youth psychiatrist to the Yukon.

» Peer-led interventions have been shown to be effective and engaging for youth. A Yukon NDP government would support NGOs in maintaining a peer-led mentoring and mental health program.

Help as soon as you need it

Problem:
Yukoners don't know where to turn when in crisis, and professional counselling is only available during weekdays.

Solution:
Expand access to counselling and mental health services by creating a 7 day/week counselling walk-in clinic, accessible to everyone who needs it, including children and youth. These services will be developed in conjunction with Rapid Access Counselling (RAC) services already available and mental health NGOs

working locally, and accessible remotely to people living in communities. This would help people get help right away, and cut down on emergency room visits on weekends for people who need to speak to someone about their mental health.

Rural Yukoners get real, consistent help and choice

Problem:
It is a challenge to staff rural communities' mental health clinics due to the nature of the work and the remoteness of the communities. There is high turnover, and even when there is retention of one counsellor, there is no choice for rural Yukoners for whom that counsellor isn't a match.

Solutions:
- » Continue to recruit rural counsellors aggressively, and enforce a condition of their hire and any benefit payout, such as moving expenses, that they retain their position for at least two years.
- » Make it policy that if the counsellor will be serving a community with at least 30% First Nations citizenry, that those First Nations are involved in the hiring process, unless they waive this entitlement.
- » Expand the infrastructure in the communities' nursing stations or similarly neutral building, in consultation with the municipality and First Nation, to have a place where Yukoners can remotely access counselling, and then allow them to apply to remotely access counselling in Whitehorse to increase their ability to choose the mental healthcare provider that suits them best.

Making sure Yukon parents get the help they need

Problem:
Perinatal mental health concerns (mental health concerns that occur during or after pregnancy) are common across Canada with 20-25% of parents (not just women) experiencing at least one of: postnatal depression, postnatal anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, or obsessive compulsive disorder. These mental health challenges can be even more common in single parent, racialized, Indigneous people and Yukon First Nations, low-income, and younger parent populations and affect the entire family.

These mental health issues are often serious, and those who experience them face a lot of stigma, barriers and worry about what getting help could mean for their family.

Solution:
All Yukoners must understand that perinatal mental health issues are common, treatable, and not their fault. Yukoners need to understand how to get the help they need and have access to a clear and accessible pathway to treatment for perinatal mental health concerns. Yukoners should not need to pay out of pocket to access competent, evidence- based treatment which will improve their, and their familys' health.

A Yukon NDP government would strike a task force in the first year to develop a Parents' Perinatal (during pregnancy and after childbirth) Mental Health Strategy. This task force would include representation from mental health professionals, Yukoners who have lived experience of perinatal mental health concerns, Indigenous and Yukon First Nations, and perinatal health professionals.

» The task force would be expected to deliver solutions for culturally-appropriate community-based preventative programming, pathways to widespread awareness and reduction of stigma, an effective and evidence-based Yukon-wide screening program, and evidence-based pathways to treatment and recovery.
» Culturally-appropriate solutions will encompass many different types of culture, including but not limited to, First Nations' cultures, LGBTQ2S+, Filipino, and Francophone.
» The Perinatal Mental Health Strategy would be fully implemented by the end of mandate, to ensure that all Yukon families have appropriate access to the healthcare they need to live healthy and happy lives.

Tackling addictions

Problem:
Yukon deaths from opioid overdoses climbed sharply in 2020, reaching double digits and disproportionately affecting Indigenous people.

Every death due to an opioid overdose is a preventable death and a blow to our community.

The street supply of opioid-based drugs has become more and more dangerous in the last few years - tainted with synthesized illicit foreign analogues. And we know that it has only become more unpredictable during the pandemic. The overdose crisis began before COVID19, will continue long after a vaccine, and has killed many more Yukoners to date.

Solution:
It is essential that within the spectrum of care offered (which must include prevention, withdrawal management, effective inpatient and outpatient treatment, and prescription therapies such as methadone and suboxone) the government offer both safe consumption, as well as safe supply.

By taking this approach, fewer people would die from overdoses, so fewer families would lose brothers, sisters, sons and daughters before their time, and fewer family members would stay up at night worrying about their loved ones. Fewer people would be involved with criminal organizations distributing, enforcing and stealing to support their addictions, so crime would also decrease.

Safer consumption programs
» Safer consumption programs are an option people who use drugs can choose to consume their drugs where other people trained to reverse the effects of overdose are present. These programs save lives not just by reducing overdose, but also by providing caring, compassionate people who can speak about and refer to treatment options should someone be ready to take that step.
» They can also provide access to materials which can help people use drugs more safely, reducing infection rates within the population, thus reducing load on the healthcare system.
» Safer consumption programs are available in most Canadian jurisdictions and have an excellent evidence base to show that they are effective public health initiatives.
» A Yukon NDP government would develop a safer consumption program in Whitehorse within the first two years of our mandate, in consultation with local harm reduction,

policing, healthcare, and First Nations experts. We will also work with rural communities and First Nations to establish the need, and, as necessary, tailored solutions for areas outside of Whitehorse.

Safer supply

- According to publications in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, "drug use is largely demand-driven by people seeking to self-medicate to deal with trauma, physical pain, emotional pain, isolation, mental illness and a range of other personal challenges, and these are the people overdosing."
- Substance use of any kind is not a matter of character but well-recognised as a medical issue diagnosed formally as Substance Use Disorder
- Within the spectrum of substance use treatment, we need to acknowledge that the options we currently have available (methadone, suboxone, withdrawal management, inpatient and outpatient counselling, naloxone) don't work for everyone - if they did, we would not be seeing overdose deaths.
- Safer supply is the prescription of safer, regulated substitutes for unsafe street drugs in the cases where other treatment options have been ineffective or are deemed unsuitable by a medical practitioner.
- We can choose to allow medical practitioners to provide a safer supply option for those who require it, or we can choose to carry on along the current path, which we have seen to be ineffective from a judicial perspective, and deadly from a healthcare perspective.
- A Yukon NDP government would work with the Yukon Medical Association, the Yukon Pharmacists' Association, as well as interested First Nations providing healthcare to people who use drugs, to ensure safer supply was available within the first year of our mandate, and stem the tide of overdose deaths in our communities.

Help for people when they're ready to receive help

Problem:

Withdrawal management (otherwise known as detox) services are often oversubscribed, and with the pandemic, we have seen a further decrease in bed availability.

Solution:

A Yukon NDP government would double the withdrawal management bed availability to ensure this life-saving service is available at the moment people are ready to receive help, and ensure that transitions between withdrawal management and supports, including treatment for those who are ready to receive it, are smooth and effective.

Yukoners who are ready to seek help for their addictions will be able to do so much more easily, rather than missing opportunities. Once they are staying in Withdrawal Management, professionals will be ready and waiting to help them move into treatment, if they are ready. Professionals working from a harm reduction perspective will also be ready to collaboratively make a concrete harm reduction plan so that the harms clients experienced from their addictions will be lessened and they can work towards improving their health at their own pace.

Managed alcohol program

Problem:
A small number of Yukoners struggle with an alcohol addiction that is not treatable but only manageable. This small number of people account for a disproportionate amount of withdrawal management, emergency services and justice service usage as a result of unmanaged alcohol addiction harms. These folks deserve to be treated with dignity regardless of the services they need.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government would develop and implement a live-in managed alcohol program in consultation with harm reduction, medical, and First Nations stakeholders within the first two years of our mandate.

A managed alcohol program is an example of a harm reduction initiative common in the rest of Canada which has not yet been implemented in the Yukon.

Managed alcohol programs are effective in the spectrum of care for people who live with alcohol use disorder for whom other types of treatment have been ineffective; they are not a first-line treatment.

Studies conducted in Canada show participants in managed alcohol programs are significantly less likely to consume non-beverage alcohol which reduces load on healthcare systems, or to resort to theft or property damage in order to obtain alcohol, which protects local homes and businesses and reduces the load on policing and other legal systems.

Addictions treatment based on the land

Problem:
Addictions treatment is currently located in the downtown core, nowhere near easy access to the land, but with very easy access to areas where people currently use and obtain drugs and alcohol.

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Inquiry Report indicated that treatment based on the land should be freely available and this is echoed in the Yukon Strategy for Missing and Murdered Indegenous Women, Girls and two spirit +

Solution:
Addictions treatment, for those who are ready to receive it, should be located in a healing centre away from temptations and triggers. Brain research shows us that exposing people to triggers while they are trying to heal cannot result in good outcomes, yet that is what we are doing with the current location of the treatment centre in our downtown core.

A Yukon NDP government would fund, and build, a new, land-based treatment centre, accessible to all Yukoners, that takes into account current research and standards on brain science and addictions, in addition to meeting requirements for culturally competent care.

GENDER-AFFIRMING AND REPRODUCTIVE CARE

Yukoners are used to travelling south for care - but with a growing population, we need to provide more services at home, invest in services for parents-to-be, and make it easier for LGBTQIA2S+ people to access services they need.

LGBTQIA2S+ navigator

Problem:
Accessing the network of new gender-affirming healthcare services and human rights legislation for LGBTQIA2S+ people can be overwhelming.

Solution:
Using a participatory action research framework, retain an LGBTQIA2S+ navigator who not only assists LGBTQIA2S+ people to access the services and rights they are entitled to, but also is empowered to feed back into and improve the system through established quality improvement and patient engagement infrastructure to ensure that the rollout of these services meets the needs of LGBTQIA2S+ Yukoners.

Period poverty

Problem:
It is estimated that Canadian women and people who menstruate spend up to $6,000 in their lifetime on menstrual hygiene products (Craggs, 2018). Women in rural communities can pay double the price for the same products found in larger cities, such as Toronto (Brown, 2017). Understandably, low-income women and people who menstruate and those on social assistance find it difficult to allocate money towards this necessity.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government would start with providing free menstrual products in all schools in order to begin to address period poverty and its effects on education access for menstruating people. We will also determine next steps for rollout of further menstrual products to combat period poverty during our mandate.

Helping more people start their family

Problem:
In-vitro fertilization (IVF) and other medical fertility treatments such as intrauterine insemination (IUI), in Canada, are subject to a patchwork of funding eligibility, leaving parents on the hook for exorbitant medical expenses in order to have children.

Solution:
In order to sustainably contribute to these expenses, the Yukon NDP would follow the proven track record of Manitoba and provide a rebate of up to $8,000 per year for fertility treatments, and consider fertility treatment medical travel and reimburse expenses accordingly. Under this model, this tax rebate could be accessed up to a maximum of five years per person. Combined with existing provincial and federal medical expenses tax credits, a significant proportion of fertility treatment expenses could be reimbursed to anyone who needs it.

Strengthening midwifery care

Problem:
Midwives are an integral part of the care team for people who give birth. With a new funded and regulated midwifery service being offered to Yukoners, no assurances have been made that the midwifery service will meet demand, or that all birthing people will be met by appropriate services for their needs.

Solutions:

» Midwives are primary health care professionals and must be fully integrated into health care settings with the access they need to do their job.

» We will assess for demand quarterly as the midwifery service is established, and ensure that the number of midwives retained meets demand from both Whitehorse and the communities

» We will ensure that the midwives hired for the new midwifery service will include midwives who speak French, and midwives who are educated regarding, and respectful of, the needs of trans and non-binary birthing people.

» Midwives will also be educated on traditional birthing practices of Yukon First Nations as part of their orientation and supported to work with traditional birthing support networks such as Indigenous doulas and family members.

» We will also ensure that rural Yukoners have access to the midwifery service by using telehealth or another secure online service, so that the midwifery team can be a part of their care, and so they can have a midwife-led birth in Whitehorse if that is what they choose.

Accommodations for those giving birth in Whitehorse from the Communities

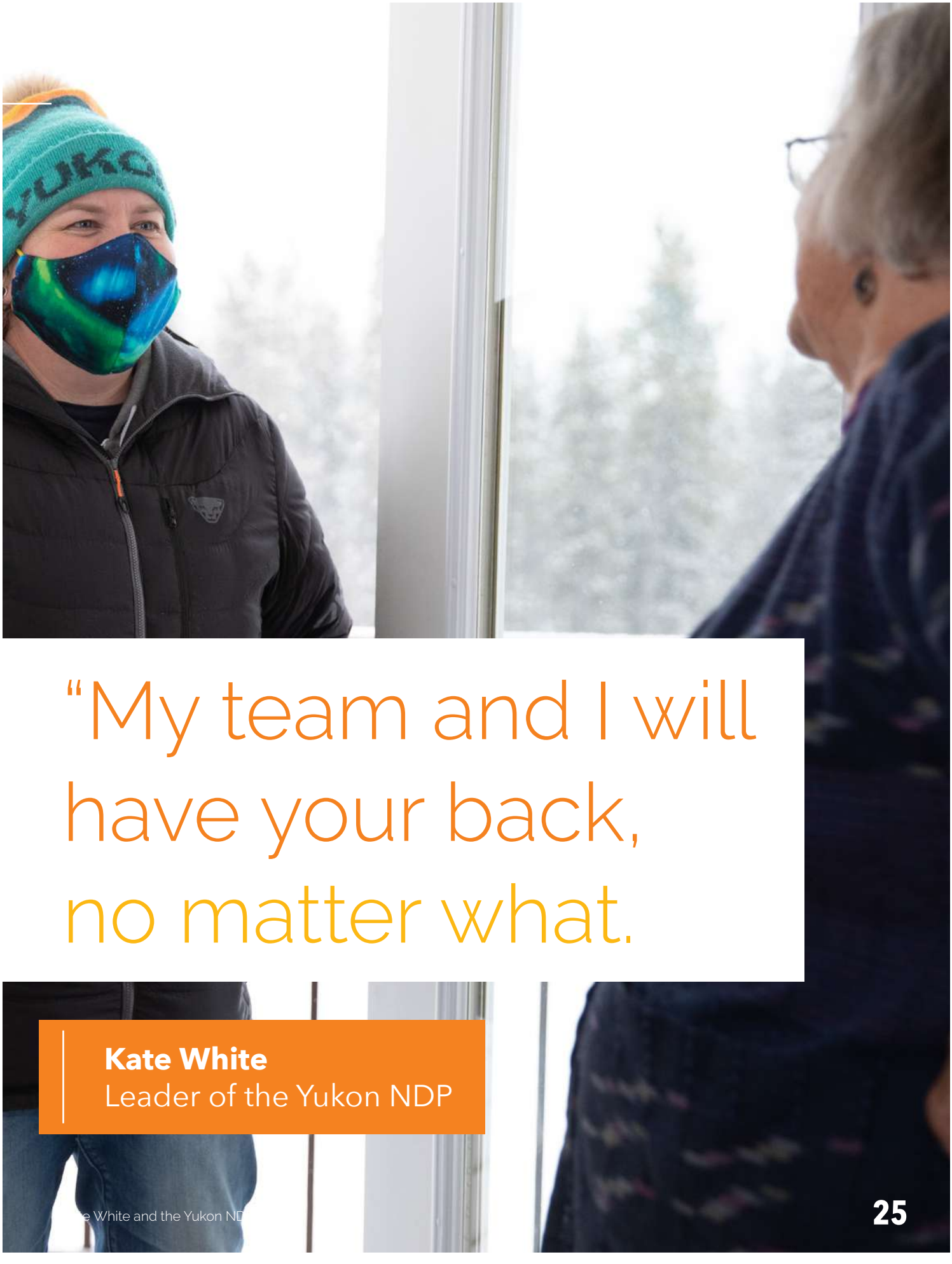
Problem:
When Yukoners from the communities are waiting to give birth, they must stay in Whitehorse for at least two weeks. This often occurs in hotel rooms where patients may not be able to cook their own food or have their families with them.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government would work to establish and support suitable accommodation options in Whitehorse for the use of rural community members (and their immediate families) who are waiting to give birth, and have recently given birth.

Birth centre

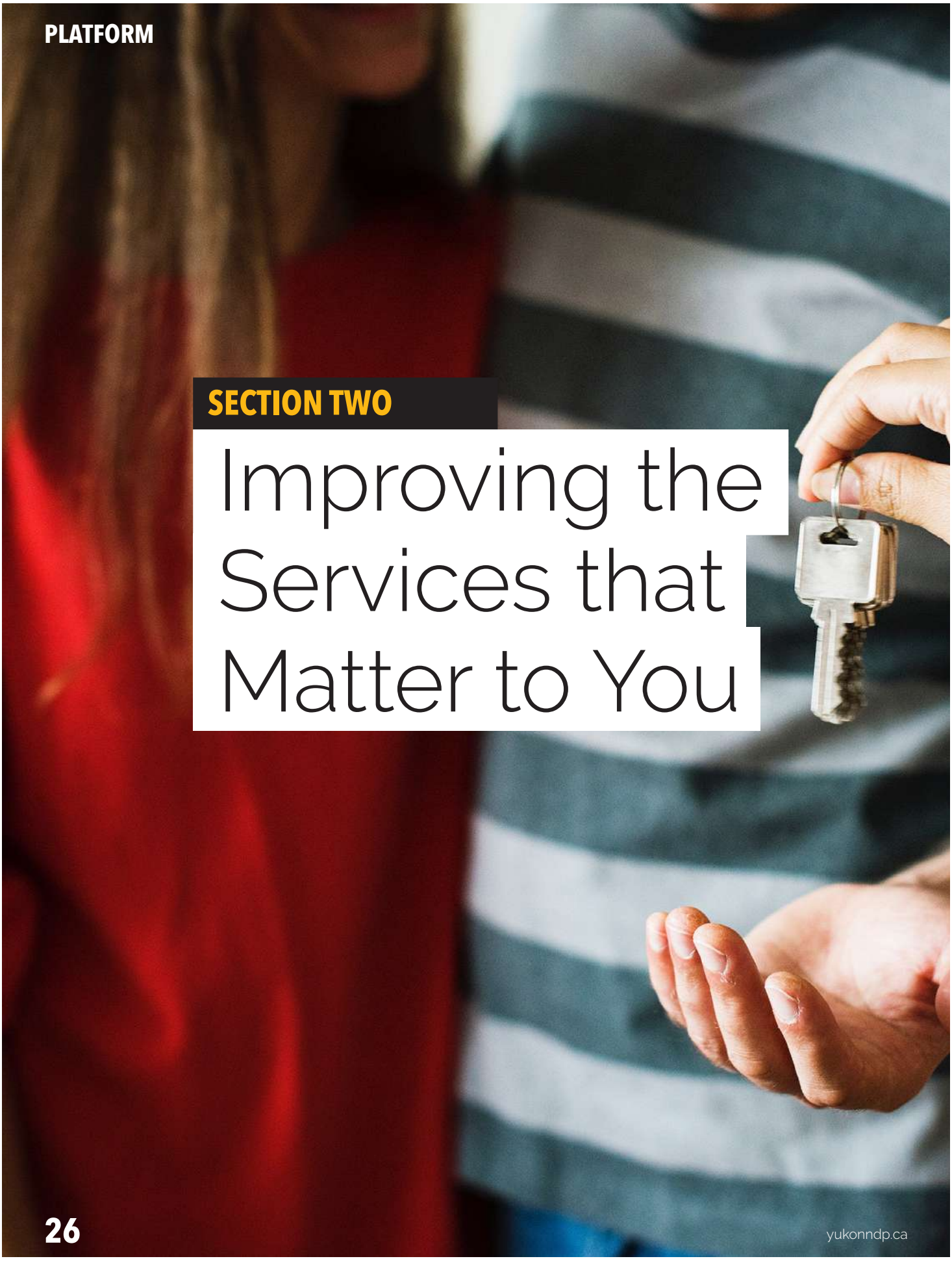
Problem:
As the birth rate in the Yukon continues to climb and Yukoners continue to advocate for choice when it comes to their birthing experience, choices are limited, especially to those coming from out of Whitehorse, who do not have a home environment in which to choose to give birth.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP will explore the concept of creating a birth centre to be located in Whitehorse, nearby to the hospital, which would incorporate traditional Yukon First Nation birthing practices, up-to-date and current birthing aids, and baby-friendly standards as per UNICEF and WHO guidelines.



"My team and I will have your back, no matter what.

Kate White
Leader of the Yukon NDP



SECTION TWO

Improving the Services that Matter to You

HOUSING

Housing is a human right, full stop. We need decisive action to tackle the housing crisis head-on before it gets even worse.

Safe at home plan

Problem:
People of all ages are still homeless, and efforts to change this have been too slow. Homelessness results in both individual and society-level challenges such as: poor health outcomes, property crime, substance use, violence, vulnerability to trafficking, and many other serious issues.

Solution:
Invest heavily in community-oriented, partnership solutions that are proven and grassroots. the Safe at home plan has three core goals: prevent homelessness, increase the supply of safe, stable, affordable homes in the community, and support people to access housing and keep their housing within a network that supports them.

The Yukon NDP looks forward to working with the many community partners, other governments including Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the Ta'an Kwach'an Council, and advisory boards that have developed, and continue to work, on the Safe at Home plan.

We are excited to be a part of this because we believe that housing is healthcare, that housing people is the best way to efficiently improve all population outcomes, and we believe that housing is a human right. Moving towards functional zero homelessness is something we cannot wait to take action on and it is a top priority for the Yukon NDP.

The Yukon NDP believes we can, and must end homelessness in the Yukon. As a first step, we will work to end chronic homelessness.

More homes for ownership, at a price that's in reach

Problem:
The Yukon's housing stock is unaffordable and unattainable to many due to high prices and low stock. Adding houses to the market in small quantities doesn't address this problem, and adding them in large quantities could threaten the investment of existing homeowners.

Solution:
Following the decades-long successful model of the Whistler Housing Authority, the Yukon NDP government would work with NGOs, First Nations, and the federal government to create units which would be for sale through a newly created housing authority at a controlled price tied to the Canadian Core Con-

sumer Price Index, which could not be resold on the open market but only through the housing authority at a maximum resale value price tied to the Core Consumer Price Index. If the units did not have a resale cap, they would almost immediately become the same price as the private market due to demand, and the aim of this project is to support people to be housed sustainably, not to provide investments or grants.

Eligibility for this program would be primarily determined through residency, income level and other regular buying criteria such as mortgage pre-approval. This program would not accept bids but would instead allocate units as they come available using a matching system.

Making it easier to find a home

Problem:
The availability and types of housing in Whitehorse and the rural communities is low and as a result, housing prices continue to soar, and lots available for development are few and far between. This is not only an issue for existing Yukoners, but also for the attraction and retention of educators and healthcare providers.

Solution:
Work in partnership with existing landowners, especially First Nations, to identify and incentivise development of residential properties and free up more lots for development while working with municipal governments to understand where residential development is most needed and to ensure that development proceeds smoothly

Making life more affordable for renters

Problem:
Successive governments have failed to implement effective and adequate supports for Yukoners who rent.

Solution:
Freezing rents to the end of 2021 and capping increases after that, creating a fairer Landlord and Tenant Act that would cap rent increases to the rate of inflation, ban evictions without cause and fair notice, and protect mobile home owners by capping pad rental increases.

Housing is a basic human right

Problem:
So many Yukoners are without a place to call home. Housing Is a basic human right, recognized under international human rights law as part of the right to an adequate standard of living. But we know this is not a reality for all of us in the Yukon. Now more than ever before, this must be recognised in law so the government is compelled to act.

Solution:
The NDP will ensure there is a right to housing in the Bill of Rights of the Yukon's Human Rights Act and will move to implement this right as a priority immediately upon forming government.

Mobile home owners' rights

Problem:
Under the current residential Landlord and Tenant Act, mobile home owners are treated the same as a regular rental tenant in a static dwelling. Unlike someone who can move between spaces, a mobile home owner owns their home and rents the surface it sits on. The reality of a mobile home owner is drastically different than a renter, and legislation should reflect that.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government will ensure that mobile home owners have the protection and security they deserve by creating specific legislation to ensure their rights. The proposed legislation will protect mobile home owners from eviction without cause and implement pad rent increase caps that are tied to inflation.

People with a disability have a right to choose where they call home

Problem:
Group homes are expensive to staff and manage, and they're not really a home environment. Many people with disabilities would not choose to live in a group home and yet they are forced to reside there for lack of other options or because they are not given a choice.

Solution:
The government can choose to increase funding and recruitment efforts for "approved homes", which are like long-term foster homes for adults living with an intellectual disability. These are long-term, home environments where people living with a disability can be a part of a real family, which is what many people would prefer.

Supporting Yukon seniors aging in place

Problem:
An ongoing lack of affordable housing options for seniors across the territory – an issue which will only compound as the population ages – forces seniors and elders into care homes prematurely.

Solutions:
- Work with the federal government, First Nations, and the private sector to continue to develop accessible, affordable, including mixed-use, mixed income, and commercial housing, not just in Whitehorse, but across the territory, so that elders can age in place with their families nearby.
- Offer incentives for seniors and elders' housing that includes intergenerational features such as daycares or preschools.
- Ensure that the new Senior and Elder's directorate establishes strong connections with local community groups to tailor new housing to the needs of Yukon seniors and elders.
- Work with community groups to create guidelines which prioritise those most in need.

JUSTICE

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is an essential aim of any justice system. Just as it is important for victims of crime to feel safe in their homes and heal, the system must ensure that perpetrators are supported to change, take responsibility, and walk down a new path. The Yukon NDP will work to transform wider social systems to help prevent violence and reduce recidivism in our community.

Real in-community support

Problem:
In 2020, the government partnered with the John Howard Society, placing men who had completed their sentences in a semi-renovated unit at the Whitehorse Correctional Facility. There is still no facility for women and people of other genders who have completed the incarceration portion of their sentences who require a safe monitored place to reside as they work towards integration into society

Solutions:
A Yukon NDP government will ensure those re-integrating into society live in a facility that is functionally conducive to full participation as a Yukon citizen while at the same time providing safety and security for residents and society. Programming and support staff at the residence will be achieved through continuing a partnership with the John Howard Society or other appropriate NGO.

Treating the root causes to keep communities safe

Problem:
From youth through adulthood, mental illness is 4 to 7 times more common in the incarcerated population than in the general population, according to the Canadian Association of Mental Health. In addition, research indicates that about 80% of incarcerated women are living with a mental illness.

Solutions:
Continuing to put people in prisons for crimes related to their mental health is expensive and ineffective, and does not make our streets safer - let's treat the root cause instead. A Yukon NDP government will increase collaboration and funding between justice and health with the aim of making Whitehorse Correctional Centre (WCC) a therapeutic environment for those who require help with their mental health and addictions, rather than one that increases or perpetuates trauma.

A Yukon NDP government will establish a treatment team to provide evidence-based addictions assessment and treatment to those in custody at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and post discharge to support successful reintegration into Yukon society. The team will work with other health care professionals to ensure that those individuals coming into custody who are already engaged in addictions treatment are able to continue it in a seamless manner while in custody.

The pathway for testing, treatment and rehabilitation or long-term forensic support for individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) will be streamlined, because the punitive functions of the justice system are not effective deterrents against crime for those with a permanent brain injury such as FASD, and opting for alternative supports that keep people off the streets will keep our communities safer.

A Yukon NDP government will provide in legislation that health care at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre will be the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Services and not the Department of Justice.

Ensuring the justice system is culturally appropriate to be effective

Problem:
Indigenous peoples in Canada have had many generations of mistrusting police forces due to their roles in colonization and specifically enforcement of the residential school system. This has made appropriate and effective policing in Indigenous communities a challenge.

Solution:
Kwanlin Dun First Nation has developed an innovative and exciting Community Safety Officer and Land Steward program as part of the Kwanlin Dün Community Safety Initiative. Community Safety Officers come from the community, are specifically trained to provide a safe and effective alternative or adjunct to the RCMP, and have the trust of the community. Because of the Community Safety Officer program, calls to the RCMP have diminished and people feel safer.

The Yukon NDP would continue to partner with KDFN and other interested First Nations to promote and develop similar community-driven safety initiatives.

Problem:
Yukon's justice system has failed to fully implement culturally appropriate sentencing and rehabilitation practices, leading to high rates of recidivism and low rates of rehabilitation for First Nations citizens involved with the justice system.

Solution:
Work with Yukon First Nation governments and the judiciary to develop culturally appropriate sentencing alternatives for Yukon courts in accordance with Gladue Report guidelines and in partnership with the Yukon Wellness Court.

Improve programming in rural communities for Yukon Wellness Courts to ensure offenders can re-enter supported and ready to take their place as responsible and valued members of a community when possible.

Protecting and honouring victims of crime and working strategically and systemically to prevent and prosecute crimes fairly

Problem:
The Yukon has some of the highest rates of domestic and sexualized violence in the country. Indigenous women and girls are disproportionately affected by these acts of violence.

Solutions:

» Ensure that the Victim's Services branch submits a companion report in all cases regarding MMIWG which advises the court about the specific cultural and historically situated context of the victim.
» Implement accountability measures to ensure that perpetrators within law enforcement are held to the same standards as other perpetrators.
» Partner with municipal and community governments, and women's groups to invest in safe and supportive infrastructure.
» Provide additional funding to the Sexual Assault Response Team to ensure that this service is provided throughout the territory.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-spirited People

Reclaiming power and place: The final report of the national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls is a revolutionary document which sets out the essential overhaul required to our colonial systems in order to change our systems, stop the violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people, and begin to heal our country. We fully endorse this report and look forward to all opportunities to incorporate the wisdom into our policy lens and actions. One action in particular is outlined below.

Problem:

The final report from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls outlines, in striking detail, that resource extraction projects where workers come from out of the area have been linked to increasing violence towards Indigenous women and girls.

Solution:

» Following the recommendations of this report, a Yukon NDP government will consider the safety of Indigenous women consistently in all stages of project planning, assessment, management, and monitoring of resource extraction projects.
» A Yukon NDP government will employ a gender-based analysis in the socioeconomic assessments and monitoring of reports for all proposed and operating extractive projects in or near Indigenous territories.

Accountability in the Justice System

Ensuring accountability in policing

Problem:

It has been 11 years since the Sharing Common Ground Report was published, and more needs to be done to foster trust between the RCMP and civilians. Though some of the recommendations from the 2010 report have since been implemented, few have served their original intent, and many others have been neglected altogether.

Solutions:

» The Yukon NDP government will work with the federal government to ensure that public records are made accessible online to civilians so that the RCMP is held accountable to the citizens they are policing.

» A Yukon NDP government will undertake a review and update of Sharing Common Ground to understand what changes have been made and what gaps still occur.

Solitary confinement and mental health

Problem:

Solitary confinement has been illegally and unethically overutilized and has not conformed to the UN human rights guidance at Whitehorse Correctional Centre in the recent past.

Solution:

Under a transformative justice system, perpetrators will be supported to heal and rehabilitate. The Whitehorse Correctional Centre must be a place of healing and support

» A Yukon NDP government would ensure that solitary confinement is used only when necessary and that correctional services remain in full compliance with the UN Human Rights guidance at all times, and will implement an auditable and transparent process for determining if solitary confinement is necessary.

» Solitary confinement should be used only for addressing safety issues and never for disciplinary purposes.

» A Yukon NDP government would work with the Whitehorse General Hospital to ensure that inmates experiencing severe mental health issues are able to be treated at the WGH.

» Upon accomplishing that a Yukon NDP government would remove the designation of Whitehorse Correctional Centre as a hospital under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Ensuring policing is effective, fair and safe

Problem:

In listening to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) people, it is imperative that Yukoners understand that policing has not been equitable or effective for all Yukoners and in many cases, has been damaging to communities.

Solutions:

The Yukon NDP will reallocate funding to community partners to help build capacity in responding to mental health and addictions calls using professionals trained specifically in crisis intervention.

The Yukon NDP recognises that each First Nation and Yukon rural community has their own strengths and challenges and we will work collaboratively to ensure solutions are tailored to need rather than implementing one size fits all changes.

Access to justice

Problem:

Civil and family litigation has become increasingly expensive leading to a huge growth in the number of self-represented litigants appearing in court. This

leads to delays in the legal process, additional expenses for the court system and for litigants and an increased likelihood that decisions will be appealed, further delaying the final judgment. The same pressure is felt by administrative and other decision making tribunals which people appear before without representation regularly.

Solution:
Working with public legal education partners, a Yukon NDP government will expand the existing Family Law Information Centre to be a true Civil Law Information Centre which can provide legal information, assistance and self-help for those who represent themselves in civil and family law matters before courts and tribunals. Materials and support will be increasingly provided online so as to provide maximum support to all Yukoners.

Problem:
Legal issues involving condominiums are growing in number and scope in the Yukon, and it is expensive for everyone involved, as well as taking up valuable court time.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government will establish a Condominium Dispute Tribunal which will have the authority to make decisions in respect of disputes between condominium boards and owners so that these disputes do not have to be elevated to the Yukon Supreme Court at great expense to all involved.

Problem:
Many – perhaps most - of the important decisions that impact Yukoners' lives are made not by courts but by administrative boards and tribunals. Members of these boards take their responsibilities very seriously and work very hard but often receive little or no training and are provided with no administrative support. For some boards and tribunals, the time between hearings is such that they are unable to maintain their skill at holding hearings, weighing evidence and writing decisions. This is unfair both to board and tribunal members and those who appear before them.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government will review and reform the administrative board and tribunal processes in Yukon to ensure that those who sit on those boards and committees have access to training, are put in a position to maintain their expertise once trained and have the impartial administrative infrastructure and support necessary to ensure the principles of administrative justice are met. The review would be wide in scope and would encompass such potential options as purposeful cross-appointments of board and tribunal members, grouping boards and tribunal together for administrative purposes and creating super-tribunals which could deal with matters under a variety of legislation.

EDUCATION

Education is critically important and this year has presented significant challenges. We'll make sure decisions are made in collaboration with Yukon families, not unilaterally.

Support that meets the needs of our children and youth

Problem:
According to the Comprehensive Review (Putting People First), Yukon performs worse than the rest of Canada in childhood physical health and wellbeing outcomes.

The effects of stress and anxiety reach every child in every school, and we keep using the same classroom layouts and attempting to teach the same coping mechanisms.

Despite the best efforts of everyone involved, child mental health outcomes have declined.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP will invest in homegrown initiatives, such as Discovelo, to improve child mental health and educational achievement. Exercise improves focus, and therefore exponentially improves educational outcomes. It also works to manage mental health challenges such as stress and anxiety.

We are excited to invest in technology and best practice in partnership with local companies to grow the economy, lift up small businesses, and improve mental, academic, and physical outcomes for children and youth.

Right to read

Problem:
Yukon children need to learn to read, yet evidence-based strategies have not been employed in the schools and our children are falling behind as a result.

Solution:
Formally recognize the Right to Read for all Yukon students. This commitment would include promoting a variety of evidence-based approaches to literacy education.

French options

Problem:
There just aren't enough French immersion spaces for all the Yukoners who want it to take advantage of this program.

Solution:
Introduce another French immersion program in a school in Whitehorse that could benefit from diversifying their program portfolio.

Programming that meets kids and teachers' needs

Problem:
Teachers are facing unprecedented levels of aggression from students in the classroom who have very complex needs. In addition, teachers and educational assistants are often overwhelmed by the genuine needs of a few children in a classroom who are not yet ready to engage in formal learning.

This makes learning a challenge for all children and teachers are reporting severe mental health challenges themselves. This is a complex issue that requires thoughtful, multi-faceted solutions.

Solutions:
» Pilot a Kindergarten-to-Grade-3, trauma-informed, sensory and self-regulation programming with additional staffing resources that meets the needs of students not ready to engage in a fully academic program.
» Engage in long-term visioning in order to ensure that staff providing educational assessments are increased in order to make sure that students are assessed for supports needed at the earliest opportunity rather than languishing on waitlists and continuing to be disadvantaged, excluded or otherwise disruptive to classrooms, and ensure that the number of support staff retained are appropriate to the number of special needs children.
» Retain evidence-based mental health and de-escalation training so that teachers feel more equipped to handle incidents of minor escalation.
» Rather than simply placing counsellors in schools and hoping students take advantage, utilise a team and school-based targeted intervention approach which has been shown to have the largest effects on aggressive behaviours in schools.
» Increase the number of behaviour specialists available for consultation and support for children with special needs such as autism.
» Pilot a Social Workers in Schools Program for schools which have a high proportion of under-resourced or marginalised children who may require social supports.

Properly resource our classrooms by hiring more learning assistance teachers and educational assistants

Problem:
The number of special education students has increased, while resources and supports have not kept up.

Solution:
» Hire 50 more learning assistance teachers and educational assistants over three years to support teachers in their classrooms and increase the amount of educator attention that all students can receive. Learning assistance teachers and educational assistants will receive special training in trauma-informed care, restorative conflict resolution and literacy instruction as necessary.
» Take action on the recommendations of the independent review of inclusive and special education, with a focus on ensuring adequate, legal protections and guarantees of support

for all students who require those supports, by reinstating Individualized Education Plans for all eligible students.

More options for diverse needs

Problem:
Unique and diverse interests and learning needs of some children are overlooked in the general classroom environment, leading to bullying and mental health challenges.

Solutions:
Pilot an elementary Montessori program in a Whitehorse-area elementary school to determine whether this style of teaching is successful in optimizing these learning styles.

Tackling bullying effectively

Problem:
Bullying and conflict remain significant concerns in Yukon schools. The continued presence of these concerns has shown us that a punitive approach has not been successful.

Solution:
» Tackle the issues of bullying and conflict head-on, in partnership with community leaders and elders, by adopting a restorative conflict resolution practice in all schools. This commitment includes support and training for teachers and educational assistants in restorative practices.
» School-based programming that supports peer support model such as the Headstrong Summits.

Targeted support for students with ADHD

Problem:
Parents and teachers who see learning and behaviour challenges are unsure where to turn and many students (especially girls) fall behind because teachers are not trained to recognise the signs of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) early on.

Solution:
A clear referral and assessment pathway for diagnosis of ADHD in school age children to ensure no child struggling with ADHD is learning without the proper supports, and specific training for education professionals on recognising the early signs of ADHD in all genders.

Ensuring all students have access to a learning environment that meets their needs

Problem:
Currently, many Yukon youth who have accessibility needs pertaining to mental health are unable to attend school for a variety of reasons.

When this happens, our youth may fall behind in their education, further entrenching their difficulties and descent into the system. The Yukon needs a bold, home-grown solution to ensure these young people have their needs met and therefore can meet their own potential.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP government will create an alternative school specialised in mental health support for high school students who have unique needs not being met by the current education system.

Equitable access to education infrastructure

Problem:
Currently, students cannot access education equitably. This issue has been highlighted and exacerbated by the pandemic. This issue is not just limited to remote learning, but internet access is essential in order to provide access to up-to-date sources and critical thinking training.

Solutions:
» A Yukon NDP government will invest in more computers and tablets, more training and support for staff as they continue to adapt to online delivery, and new ways to improve e-learning.
» Ensuring that students have access to affordable internet service and the proper devices to create an equitable learning environment.

Universally affordable childcare

Problem:
Childcare and early childhood development and education should go hand in hand as government policies - but right now they don't. Childcare helps more Yukoners, especially women, get back into the workforce and helps kids see that women can have many roles in society.

Early and appropriate childhood development and education, or lack thereof, is the single biggest predictor of later life achievement, poverty, involvement in the justice system, and healthcare outcomes. But not all childcare is quality early childhood education. If Yukoners want to have quality early childhood education and reap the benefits from this, we need to go farther, and deeper, than just subsidizing childcare.

Solution:
» We will keep the current universal childcare benefit structure for both childcare providers and families in place at levels introduced before the election.
» We will work with childcare providers who provide infant care, as well as extended or weekend hours to ensure that they continue to be able to, or even expand to be able to, offer this flexibility for families and that families are not negatively impacted.
» We will provide a direct subsidy to families who work or study in unsocial hours and require childcare which they cannot obtain through a typical daycare setting to help with the costs, since these families will be left out.
» Affordable, quality, and relevant childcare that bridges health, social services and education is a smart investment. It provides not only equitable workforce participation but is a large employment sector for educators and the most proactive way to ensure healthier school children, young adults and aging adults.

The Yukon NDP will ensure that the corresponding increase in demand for childcare will be planned for and quality care is well-supported with the following initiatives:

» Childcare facilities that operate on evenings, weekends and holidays will be targeted for extra financial support in start-up costs, as many who participate in the workforce or who are students require childcare during this time as well.
» Qualified early childhood education professionals are already in short supply, and early childhood education is not babysitting. We will continue to provide opportunity for tuition support for those who are interested in entering into a career of early childhood education at Yukon University.
» Financial incentives for childcare programs will be dependant on quality assessment and a payscale developed in partnership with the child care community.
» Financial incentives for childcare operators will be targeted towards ensuring that front-line staff earn a wage commensurate with the difficult and important job they do, so they don't have to work three jobs to make ends meet and have time and energy to spend with our children.
» We will work with the child care community to develop a plan to help the public understand what educators do and why their work is so valuable to families and the community.
» With an increase in childcare spots, it will be essential that new practitioners have access to evidence-based consultation - funding to the ELPS program at the CDC will be increased for three years to scale up the program and support the new childcare facilities.
» We will work with the appropriate NGOs to decide how to best implement programs such as the ELPS, how to ensure and encourage professional development opportunities for educators and program director/managers, meeting them where they're at.

As we support more individuals to become trained childcare and early development professionals, the Yukon's capacity to care for our growing number of young Yukoners will grow accordingly.

» We will ensure that Early Childhood Educators are a well-supported profession, just like teachers and other professionals in the Yukon's education system. We will also invest in future childcare workers by supporting them to receive the necessary accreditation and training to provide the best care for Yukon children.
» We will ensure that Early Childhood Centers have access to Professional Development funding to be able to help choose what additional education opportunities work best for their staff.

Tuition-Free continuing education for everyone

Problem:

The Yukon NDP believes in lifelong education. We believe that anyone who wishes to seek higher education should be able to access it.

Solution:

The Yukon NDP believes that learning is a right and that young people deserve a great start in life unencumbered by student debt. We also believe that the whole society benefits when access to learning is given to everyone, not just those fortunate enough to afford it. Finally, we want educated people to stay and work in Yukon. This is why under the Yukon NDP, four full, or six part-time, years of tuition for any program at Yukon University will be free of charge to all Yukoners who have lived in Yukon for at least 3 years before starting their studies.

Ensuring all students have access to a learning environment that meets their needs

Problem:
Yukon children and youth face significant mental health challenges and the mental health system in schools is not resourced to help them meet those challenges. Parents feel overwhelmed attempting to get help for their children and aren't sure where the right door is.

Teachers have adapted and incorporated the transition to a new curriculum, yet remain overwhelmed with the growing, diverse learning and social-emotional needs in their classrooms without adequate in-class support for their students.

Solution:
Better support for students with trauma-based challenges, self-regulation troubles and other specific mental health needs, by increasing the presence and availability of trained, school-based mental-health workers working in coordination with teachers, support staff, departmental experts and local community leaders to provide wraparound care.

This commitment would include clinical support provided to school-based counsellors, and eventually ensure the full-time presence of one mental-health worker in each school, especially in the Yukon's communities.

Ensuring quality education for First Nations children and youth

Problem:
Critical gaps in First Nations students' education and graduation success have persisted, 32 years after systemic inequality was first identified, leaving more and more Indigenous youth behind with a 49% graduation rate for First Nations youth compared to an 81% graduation rate for non-First Nations youth.

Solution:
Partnering with the Yukon First Nations Education directorate and all school boards, we will commit to an Indigenous-led approach to First Nations education, building programming around First Nations voices by honouring culture and internalizing a deeper understanding of Indigenous ways of learning and understanding of how to walk in both worlds. This commitment includes dialogue and training to ensure that all Yukon teachers develop the necessary capacity and confidence to deliver an Indigenous-led curriculum with the lens of a First Nations worldview.

A Yukon NDP government would also increase support and resources for culturally relevant, land-based programming for Indigenous students in full collaboration with local First Nations, elders and communities.

Finally, Indigenous language programming has been neglected by successive governments for too long. The Yukon NDP will partner with First Nations to provide Indigenous language programming that can be accessed both in the school environment as well as outside of it.

Funding for sports, arts, and outdoor education programming

Problem:
Our youth deserve access to a well-rounded education that nurtures the whole child and develops a wide range of practical skills. Our teachers are highly skilled and motivated to build physical and creative expression – and especially experiential, land-based learning – into their classrooms. The Yukon's specialized sports, arts and outdoor secondary programs (MAD, ACES, FACES, OPES, PASE) are innovative, effective, and extremely popular, however, they are lacking in adequate spaces, especially for those students who do not have access to similar opportunities outside of school.

What our educators need are the resources to make this programming more accessible, and the support and collaborative space to make it happen.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government will:

» Provide additional resources, supports, materials and collaboration time for teachers and support staff at all grade levels to incorporate sport, art and outdoor education learning in everyday teaching practice.

» Provide supports for students in the communities to access materials and transportation to Whitehorse-based sport, art, academic and other extracurricular programming.

» Ensure that all interested First Nations students have access to culturally relevant, land-based learning opportunities as a high proportion of their overall education.

REDUCING POVERTY

Yukoners have big hearts. We care deeply about each other, and we want to make sure our neighbours are taken care of. Together, we can reduce poverty and inequality in our territory.

Ending predatory lending practices

Problem:
Predatory payday loan services rates, when calculated as an annual rate, are equal to about 600% APR - the average credit card has a high interest rate of 23%. This is an excessively expensive cost of borrowing.

In the Yukon, it is also legal to allow people to take out a second loan at the same interest rate to pay off the first one, and to charge significant additional fees if loans are not paid back on time.

In addition, research in other Canadian jurisdictions shows that people who use payday loans use them often, and are predominantly families meeting unexpected but emergent expenses with nowhere else to turn. This kind of lending traps people in a cycle of poverty and debt that is impossible for them to escape.

People who use payday loans and cheque cashing services are not in a position to be paying these high fees, and these so-called services prey on the people in the community with the least resources to be able to make different financial choices.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP will create legislation to tie monthly interest rates by payday lenders and cheque cashers to the average credit card interest rate APR (about 23%), ban fees for late payment and ban the paying off of one payday loan with another.

The Yukon NDP will also work with community partners such as NGOs, First Nations, and the city of Whitehorse community programs, to create programming which teaches basic financial literacy to those most at risk, in places where they can most easily access it, in addition to ensuring that this is included in the high school curriculum as a specific prerequisite for graduation.

Minimum wage and a living wage

Problem:
The current minimum wage does not allow Yukoners to live with dignity, in a safe and warm home, to eat regular nutritious meals, to enjoy their free time, or to save for a rainy day.

Solution:
We believe all Yukoners have the right to a level of

economic security that allows them to grow and realise their potential. We believe in a Yukon where wages earned support a healthy and happy populace. This is why the Yukon NDP government would raise the minimum wage to $15.20 and work with business and industry to work towards solutions that would move minimum wage towards a living wage.

Basic Annual Income Pilot

Problem:
People with disabilities face a confusing web of funding systems which often, even when maximised, result in substandard living situations and food insecurity. People with disabilities deserve to live with dignity, security and to have quality of life but this is often denied them by the current system.

Solution:
Explore a partnership with the Federal government and First Nations to create a new Federal Income support benefit that replaces the expensive, cumbersome, and antiquated web of services that don't meet the needs of those forced to use them.

YOUTH

Young people are our territory's strength. Our government needs to hear youth voices and make sure that opportunities exist for all youth, no matter where they live or how much money they have.

Supporting rural youth to have recreational and development opportunities

Problem:
Youth based in the rural communities face significant challenges when attempting to access equitable recreation opportunities to youth in Whitehorse, contributing to mental health and physical health inequality.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government would work with communities and First Nations to develop a collaborative public transportation solution to ensure that youth who wish to travel to Whitehorse for arts, academics and athletic opportunities are able. Specific funding would be allocated to support the travel of youth who are financially vulnerable, and support the availability of appropriate community level tryouts for events such as the Arctic Winter Games.

A Yukon NDP government will increase funding available to Yukon youth through the Kid's Recreation Fund so that every child has the ability to participate in sport and recreation opportunities.

A Yukon NDP government would provide targeted funding to support coaches and mentors in rural communities. We recognise and salute the many volunteers who spend countless hours helping youth reach their potential in a variety of arenas, but we are certain that many more would step forward if it was financially viable - perhaps single parents who require extra funding for childcare, or young adults who need to work another job in the evenings to make ends meet. The Yukon NDP will work in partnership to provide targeted funding through NGOs, recreational centres, and First Nations to communities identify their own leaders and mentors.

Youth Employment

Problem:
Jobs for young Yukoners are essential for a variety of reasons, only some of them financial. Early and entry-level employment also creates a workforce that is diverse, responsible, and helps young people to make decisions about their future, but youth are often left out of the job market for a variety of reasons, leaving them behind.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government would work with youth led NGOs, Yukon employers and the Chambers of Commerce to understand the barriers that youth face in attaining and maintaining entry-level positions, and support employers to reverse this trend.

Youth-led decision making

Problem:
Decisions about youth should include youth perspectives, but there is currently no formal mechanism to ensure this happens.

Solution:
» Policies affecting young people should be viewed through the UN Declaration on Rights of the Child (UNDRC). A process will be put into place to ensure an expert on UNDRC is available to assist in any policy or programming development to ensure youth rights are honoured.
» Policies that affect youth and children should be reviewed by a panel of youth that is representative of Yukon youth. A Yukon NDP government will work with youth-led NGOs and other youth organizations to convene and maintain this panel.

NEWCOMERS AND IMMIGRATION

Newcomers make our territory stronger. We want to make it easier for people who want to join us here to make Yukon home.

Bringing back the federal immigration office

Problem:
When new Canadians are already here but are completing immigration processes for themselves or family members, it is a true hindrance not to have an immigration office located within Whitehorse.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP values the many people who choose to make the Yukon home, and would advocate to have the federal immigration office returned to Whitehorse to make their immigration process, or that of their family, smoother and less stressful.

Reducing waiting periods when it makes sense

Problem:
The waiting period for healthcare is three months from the date one is eligible to apply for a healthcare card. For those who have already been in the country for three months or longer but ineligible for health-care, this further waiting period can result in financial hardship, or poor healthcare outcomes or even death as people attempt to wait until their coverage comes in.

Solution:
Waive the waiting period if the new Yukoner can prove that it has overlapped with legal residency and application waiting times.

Our candidates are an amazing, community-minded group of people with a wealth of experience. **Every single one of them is someone who cares about their community and who will do what they say they'll do.**

Kate White
Leader of the Yukon NDP

SECTION THREE

An Economy That Works for Everyone

In the last election, Yukoners voted for change, and the Yukon Liberals did not deliver.

Kate White and the Yukon NDP will work towards an economy that is sustainable and doesn't leave anyone behind.

Putting Yukon businesses ahead of big corporations

Problem:
Small and medium businesses have been hit especially hard during the pandemic and are living (or dying) on a knife's edge every month. Yukon businesses have worked hard to adapt and continue to serve Yukoners and it's time to give back.

Investing in local business makes good fiscal sense - it costs the government less to keep a business going than to let it go under and help it to re-establish later, but also, every dollar spent at a local business in the Yukon multiplies as it passes through Yukoners' hands again and again, as rent, groceries, recreation, or any number of the other things Yukoners must pay for.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government will work with the business community to understand the needs of small and medium businesses, and work with their partners, including the City of Whitehorse and the Chambers of Commerce, to develop a plan which:

» Promotes "Buy Local" in a tangible and useful way - not just asking people to buy local but actually making it easy for Yukoners to hear about and connect with businesses supplying the goods and services they want and need. We want to build on the work the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce did promoting Buy Local Whitehorse by creating a resource for Yukoners that is user-friendly and up-to-date. Yukoners want to buy local, but sometimes they

don't know how or don't have a lot of time to research options. A Yukon NDP government would create and support a searchable "Buy local" website or app that helps people easily find the goods they are looking for in partnership with the Chambers of Commerce and other interested commercial parties, and would run promotions and contests using this new resource to get Yukoners excited and engaged.

» Works with the City of Whitehorse and Chambers of Commerce to run a pilot which would make all the metered parking free on Saturdays to make shopping downtown at small and locally-owned businesses easier and more appealing for Yukoners.

» Partners with Service Canada and the Chambers of Commerce to pilot a "navigator" position for the duration of the recovery from the pandemic, the role of whom will be to help small and local business owners understand which aid they are eligible for and to assist them to work through the application process.

» Takes lessons learned from the *Free shipping anywhere in Canada* program. We would continue to support partnerships that even the playing field for small businesses in Yukon who face an uphill battle compared to behemoth businesses like Amazon who have the luxury of offering free shipping.

» Immediately extends all current Yukon government small and local business assistance by at least one year, or for the duration of the recovery time needed following COVID19.

» Involves a review of legislation and planning, both territorial and municipal, to identify and change legislation which is not supportive of growth or development of small and medium businesses.

» Rolls out a real "Buy Local" policy for the Yukon Government that ensures that travel is by Air North, that food is purchased through locally owned companies, and that all local options are explored before external contracting is even considered. Any time there is a contract for procurement from a non-local business, there is an explanation why the goods or service could not be procured locally.

» A Yukon NDP Government would work with the Yukon airline industry to have the federal government legislate mandatory interline agreements with major airlines that protect local airlines and ensure accessible service for all Yukoners.

» Pilots microgrants for Yukon businesses to make needed improvements using a matching formula. During the pandemic many businesses needed to pivot and adjust to stay alive. We value this creative and enterprising spirit and we want to continue to support businesses to evolve, innovate and improve, and we won't wait until the next pandemic or emergency to invest in the small business community. Applications would be considered for businesses who wanted to improve or maintain web presence, update their systems, renovate their spaces, or other improvements that require capital and would be matched dollar to dollar up to a $5,000 government contribution yearly per business.

» Continues to support and expand the mentorship program in partnership with Yukonstruct and Yukon University where experienced business owners help to guide the new generation.

Promoting and supporting Yukon artists

Problem:
The Yukon is host to incredible talent in the visual, dramatic, musical, literary, and cultural arts. Communities where art is supported are healthier, happier and more vibrant. We have the highest per capita population of artists in the country, and this is a natural resource we have neglected to nurture and develop to its full potential as an industry in its own right.

Solutions:

» Marketing Yukon art nationally and internationally works better when an accessible showcase is facilitated and a united front is created. A Yukon NDP government will commit to creating, marketing, and supporting an online portal through which Yukon art and cultural works and experiences from the small, such as individual artists' work, to the large, such as our amazing festivals, can be effectively promoted to potential customers both across Canada and in fertile international markets. No longer will Yukon be full of "hidden gems". Our talent will be on full display for the world to admire.

» Simultaneously, in consultation with representatives of the arts and cultural sectors, partner on developing and support implementation of an arts and cultural industries action plan for every sector of the cultural economy.

» Establish a ten-year arts and cultural initiative for the creation of new, strategic and groundbreaking works that represent the territory and foster collaboration amongst music, theatre, dance, visual arts, film and media.

» Establish a cost-shared arts and cultural infrastructure capital program to assist in the planning, construction and/or renovation of cultural facilities, replacing current ad hoc arrangements and better supporting the growth of cultural tourism, which gives back to the local economy and supports hundreds of jobs.

Small businesses under attack by delivery services

Problem:
Small businesses are threatened across Canada by large delivery businesses such as DoorDash and Skip the Dishes which take a significant cut from the bill as well as charging unreasonable fees to our small business owners. In other jurisdictions, these predatory practices have run small restaurant owners entirely out of business. Both of the aforementioned services have begun operating in the territory in recent weeks.

Solution:
Commercial delivery drivers will be required to have a commercial license in order to ensure safe driving practices, ensure that delivery vehicles are clearly labelled with the name of the company, and cap the fees that these multinational companies can charge small businesses.

We will also pass legislation that ensures that all drivers for delivery companies or rideshare companies are employees and not contractors and therefore eligible for the remuneration and benefits they have earned.

Supporting Tourism

Yukon tourism businesses, when aggregated, are the single largest private employer in the Yukon, and are the second largest financial driver of money into the Yukon. Tourism operators live part, or full-time in the Yukon and spend their money here, so helping the tourism industry helps all Yukoners by multiplying the dollars that come in through spends at other businesses and services.

Problem:

Tourism operators care deeply about the health and wellbeing of Yukoners, because they themselves are Yukoners. Under COVID19 restrictions, however, this formerly flourishing sector has been unable to make ends meet. Solutions from the previous Liberal government, like promoting staycations and government bailouts have been insufficient due to the size of our population, and announcements like increasing marketing spending, do nothing in the short to medium term if people cannot reasonably visit within the foreseeable future.

Solutions:

The Yukon NDP understands that this diverse industry will require creative solutions, and that there is no one-size-fits all solution to the tremendous hit the tourism industry has taken through COVID19 restrictions. Everyone in this industry must be represented at the table. Government and industry must work together, and listen to each other, to find our way through this.

A Yukon NDP government commits to:

» Spending money on tourism strategy development immediately upon taking office and being open to creative solutions from all areas of the industry to inform this. We need to invest in a flexible, dynamic strategy now, so we can ensure that we grow our industry back sustainably, tactically, and safely.

» We will do this by drawing from other industries and other geographic locations, to find solutions that fit for all Yukon tourism businesses.

» We will invest now in technology and research, such as rapid testing and modelling that reflects our rural reality, when we're able to return to in-person tourism, we can make tourism safer and proactively manage public health threats.

» We will seek out, and take the advice of, international industry-leading medical and public health consultants who have already managed to help other businesses get back to work.

» We will try new and different ways of making travel in these times appealing, such as pairing operators (such as experience resorts and hotels with wilderness experience tours) to meet the practical needs of travel in a COVID19 reality so guests don't have to do this legwork themselves.

» We will continue to work with all communities and First Nations to ensure that they are kept in the know about, and feel comfortable with, the risk management plans in place for tourism operation.

» We will invest in training and personal protective equipment as necessary for interested tourism operators so that tourism operators, guests, and Yukoners are as safe as possible.

Paying Yukon contractors a fair wage

Problem:
The fair wage policy instituted by previous governments is not functioning as it was intended. Currently, fair wages for tradespeople are being circumvented and ignored by contractors on many large scale government contracts, as are safety standards and rules around breaks. This means that jobs the government brings through large scale infrastructure contracts are not always the jobs local tradespeople want or need.

Solutions:
» Be more proactive around Fair Wage. Ask for payroll records – with names blacked out, if necessary, to ensure that wages are being paid fairly for work done.
» Establish a Fair Wage Advisory board made up of key stakeholders in the industry, owners and unions. Review categorizations of workers and give the board the authority to investigate breaches of the Fair Wage.
» Conduct a thorough review of employment standards policies and ensure that best practices around machine operators and tradespeople working from heights or in confined spaces are instituted.

Paid Sick Leave

Problem:
Not all workers have access to paid sick days. This problem was highlighted on a larger scale during the pandemic when both the federal and territorial governments created stop gap programs so that workers had an option other than to go to work sick.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP will, through legislation proposed as an amendment to the Employment Standards Act, ensure that employees have access to a reasonable amount of sick leave days every year. This action protects public health, the employer (in the case of a pandemic especially) and the employees.

Helping workers stay safe and get ahead

Problem:
Ensuring workers are protected and mentally and physically safe in their workplaces has not been a priority for previous governments. This needs to change in order to ensure a healthy and effective workforce.

Solutions:
» The Yukon NDP is committed to ensuring that workers are mentally and physically safe in their workplaces.
» The Yukon NDP will work with the Human Rights Commission and the Yukon Workers Compensation Health and Safety Board to ensure that all workplaces, government and private, are free from discrimination, harassment, and unsafe work practices. This will include updated whistleblower legislation which holds management accountable, including in government.
» The Yukon NDP will extend presumptive PTSD legislation to include all Yukon workers. As any worker could face an accident, incident or other traumatic situation on the job, the criteria will no longer be type of occupation but an

identifiable traumatic experience occurring in the workplace along with a diagnosis of PTSD by a qualified professional.

» Yukon workers deserve to have confidence that their position will be there for them next week and next year. Along with this, if the government has the ability to fund a full-time position, it should make sure that the employee is compensated adequately and equitably to other employees doing the same work. This is why the Yukon NDP would crack down on the unfair practice of placing auxiliary-on-call staff into regularly scheduled full or part-time positions for an indeterminate amount of time rather than creating full-time positions.

Updating government to truly support agriculture

Problem:

Yukon agriculture represents several values that Yukoners hold dear: hard work, self-sufficiency, and ingenuity. The market has shown that Yukoners want to be able to source food that has been ethically produced locally, with a low carbon footprint, that supports our friends and neighbours. Farming, however, is a significant risk and investment for anyone who takes it on, and benefits from formal support in the form of initiative, education and legislation.

The Yukon NDP is serious about supporting growing and promoting local agriculture.

Solutions:

» A Yukon NDP government will strike a task force to listen to the diverse and growing representatives of agriculture farmers across the Yukon and understand their needs through consultation, but move swiftly to action following this engagement.

» We understand that there are many types of farms and that not all people who participate in agriculture have the same goals or needs. Modernization of legislation for agriculture in the Yukon is long overdue, including a discussion of supply management, sanitation and export regulations and people with "on the ground experience" need to be involved in shaping the Yukon's agricultural future.

Eat local buy local rebate

Problem:

Yukon farmers and businesses work hard to create opportunities for Yukoners to eat ethically and locally, but Yukon farmers require support in order to continue contributing to the economy as well as making food security for the Yukon a reality.

Solutions:

» In order to promote and create a sustainable market for Yukon agriculture, a yearly rebate tied to volume will be provided to Yukon-based retailers and food service businesses who choose to purchase Yukon-grown produce, dairy, meat and eggs. This initiative also helps to reduce emissions from transporting agricultural products into our territory.

Make Government Choose Local First

Problem:
Agriculture requires substantial risk and investment. Without stable markets, Yukon farmers are challenged to grow and diversify their yields.

Solution:
Yukon government services such as hospitals, correctional facilities, continuing care facilities, and other programs that require food provision should look to local agriculture contracts with interested farmers first before buying food from other commercial sources because money spent in the Yukon stays in the Yukon.

In order to make this possible, the Yukon NDP government will work with local agriculturists to create a Grown in Yukon marketplace that smaller providers can aggregate their goods into and the government can easily contract from.

Government must honour commitments to farmers

Problem:
Yukon farmers who make contracts are expected to honour them and plan their yields accordingly many months in advance. The Yukon Government should be expected to honour contacts to order food products that respect the realities of the agriculture industry. If the government does not uphold their end of the contract, the farmers bear the financial brunt, and due to the nature of agricultural products, are forced to unload their products at a loss or see them spoil.

Solutions:
» Under a Yukon NDP government, the expectation will be that the government will make the effort to source agricultural products locally. In addition, the expectation for government contracts for Yukon agriculture products will be that if the government contracts for a certain amount of product, that the government will order and pay for that amount of product unless mutually agreed otherwise.
» This initiative increases food security, reduces food wastage, and supports and grows local agricultural business

Agriculture infrastructure farmers need

Problem:
Yukon farmers work hard to produce their animal products and want to ensure that when the time comes, they are able to bring their products to the market. The mobile abattoirs are a step in the right direction but they have been unpredictably available, contributing to significant frustration for both farmers and their clients.

Solution:
» A Yukon NDP government would guarantee the mobile abattoirs are functional, available and easy to book so that animals can be safely, cleanly and humanely processed.
» Ensure that a food animal veterinarian is hired to work within the Agricultural Branch to fully be able to support farmers and their livestock

Visiting workers paying their fair share

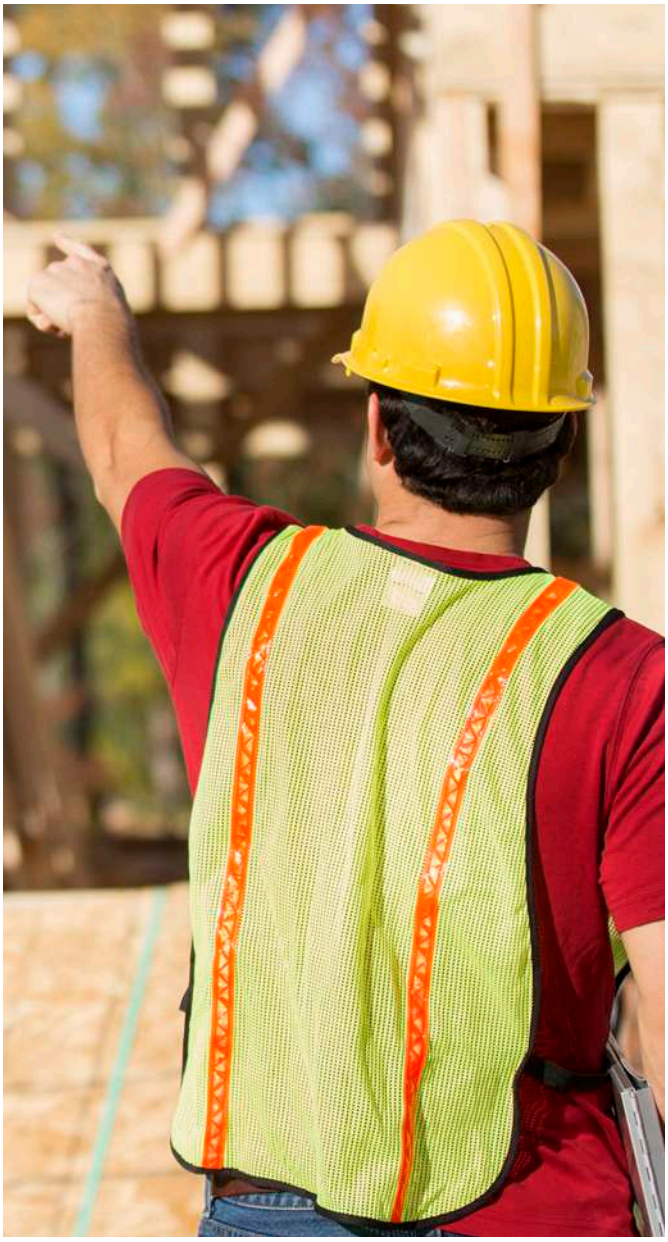
Problem:
The Yukon NDP believes that money made in the Yukon should stay in the Yukon, and that jobs should go to Yukoners first, but corporate interests have held previous governments hostage through campaign donations and lobbying.

Solution:

» We support responsible development and business in the Yukon, however, we believe that those who make their money in the Yukon but choose to make their home outside of the Yukon and, therefore, spend their money elsewhere should contribute to the Yukon.

» This is why the Yukon NDP would implement a non-voluntary 2% contribution which would only be implemented for workers who file their income tax outside of the Yukon.

» Yukoners would benefit by having this financial contribution go back into maintaining services and infrastructure we all enjoy.



INFRASTRUCTURE

We're going to invest in the infrastructure that Yukoners want and need, to live and play.

Internet access is a human right

Problem:
The pandemic has shown that access to good, high speed internet is no longer a luxury, but a necessary aspect of life in 2021. With services from across the health, social services and education spectrum moving online, we suddenly saw a massive disparity in who could access essential services and who could not.

This inequity cannot be tolerated.

Yukon small businesses in underserved communities with unreliable internet have suffered greatly, as they are unable to participate to the same extent in the online communications which have become essential in today's business world.

Solution:

» The Yukon NDP will ensure that all Yukoners who live within an established community have access to reliable, realistic (unlimited data with workable upload speeds), affordable (less than $100 per month) internet so that they can equitably access healthcare, (including mental healthcare), education, and other services.

» Northwestel, with funding from the Canadian Radio Television and Communications fund, has committed to a plan to ensure all communities within the Yukon have access to reliable internet using either low-earth satellites, hybrid fibre coax or fibre to the home by 2023. We will ensure that they are held to account and work with the CRTC and Northwestel and the federal government more broadly to make this new technology affordable for all Yukoners.

Access to parks and campgrounds

Problem:
Yukoners stay mentally and spiritually healthy and whole through spending time in nature. Campgrounds are not just used for overnight stays, but also for recreation such as hiking and family gatherings. Their infrastructure, such as fire pits and shelters, are used by many community groups and programs which provide culturally appropriate access to the land, but too often people are unable to access these through barriers due to disability, or because campgrounds get too full due to increasing demand.

Solutions:

» Work with First Nations to create two new campgrounds within two hours' driving time of Whitehorse in order to nurture this connection to nature.

» Explore expansion of existing campgrounds where practical.

» Introduce a pilot program for making some

sites within two hours of Whitehorse bookable using a reservation system which would open spots week by week.

» These campgrounds will follow the example of Wolf Creek and include accessible trail infrastructure and First Nation signage and history, so that they are truly inclusive spaces for all Yukoners to enjoy.

» Work to ensure fees for camping are affordable for Yukoners by bringing back Yukoner permits at $50 per year and keeping free camping for Yukon seniors. However, we will make up the cost difference by increasing the nightly stay fee for out of territory guests in order to cover the costs of firewood and maintenance.

Yukon Parks Strategy

Problem:
Parks planning and development has proceeded in a haphazard manner and this has left representatives of ecoregions unprotected.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP will commit to implementing the Yukon Parks strategy, including the development of a Yukon Territorial Parks System Plan to guide the creation of existing parks and campgrounds, and the establishment of future parks, including committing to protect representatives of all ecoregions in the Yukon.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation, be it by road or air, is the lifeblood of the Yukon. We'll ensure the infrastructure we need is there for us.

Plan smarter infrastructure work

Problem:
Infrastructure work in the territory hasn't been planned, and it hasn't taken into account decay which we know is increasing due to climate change and permafrost melting.

Solution:
Create a multi-year transportation and infrastructure maintenance plan which takes into account and prioritizes projects based on climate change related effects, but also ensures that local infrastructure contractors can gather the resources necessary and plan for tenders in advance, rather than being outbid at the last minute by larger southern contractors in poorly planned or rushed tenders.

Ensuring our roads and highways are safe and sustainable

Problem:
Melting permafrost is threatening significant areas of the Alaska highway and other roads and infrastructure in the Yukon. Without a plan to remediate these areas, large parts of the highway could literally fall away, creating crises such as food and medicine shortages, injuries, death, or communities being cut off from supply lines of essential services. Of course, any disaster like this would also further damage our struggling tourism industry. A reactionary approach to this impending disaster is completely unacceptable - climate change challenges such as this require leadership - moving forward with our eyes open to the problem, rather than our heads buried in the sand.

Solutions:
A Yukon NDP government would immediately partner with Transport Canada to allocate resources to map potential trouble spots on Yukon highways, and then release a public document which not only displays the trouble spots but also prioritizes them for engineering solutions.

Ensuring air infrastructure is safe and sustainable

Problem:
The Yukon Government and Yukon businesses have worked hard to promote tourism opportunities to both domestic and international markets. Since 2015, the Erik Nielsen International Airport has seen a dramatic increase in activity, despite this, Whitehorse

is at risk of losing its Air Traffic Controllers due to staffing changes at Nav Canada and the government has refused to advocate. This puts all flights at risk, including medevacs to and from communities.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government will work with the Federal Transport Minister and NAV Canada to ensure that the Eric Nielsen International Airport retains Air Traffic Control Services.

RURAL COMMUNITIES

The Yukon NDP has a strong legacy of supporting rural communities. We're going to invest in the services and opportunities that rural Yukoners need to stay in the communities they love.

Partnering with Yukon University to have made-in Yukon training programs to increase access to good jobs and healthcare in the rural communities

Problem:
Many healthcare professionals are based in Whitehorse or do not travel frequently to the communities, and this can create significant barriers for people residing in the communities to access cost-effective, convenient preventative healthcare.

Solution:

» Support rural communities by training community members using the Nuka model and a partnership with Yukon University.

» We will work with communities to identify and train community members to do preventative healthcare and mental healthcare such as mental health support work, dental hygiene healthcare, and to act as health aides in nursing stations.

» The health aides would be trained to monitor chronic conditions, assist with homecare as appropriate, provide essential health promotion support, maintain relationships and be a liaison between the community and the visiting professionals.

» Condition of hire for these positions would be a commitment to seeing the training through and by remaining in the community, once trained, for at least five years.

Emergency healthcare and other emergency services in the communities

Problem:
Rural communities often depend on a small group of dedicated people who volunteer for critical emergency services (such as ambulance and fire). Transience, burnout, and other life circumstances make the current system unsustainable and put people at risk. It is essential that the sustainability strategy of these services is re-examined and brought up to current standards.

Solution:
Work to ensure equitable and sustainable emergency service in communities by establishing a working group to determine what measurable level of emergency response service can be established and what

changes will be necessary to consistently achieve those levels of service.

A community policy lens

Problem:
The unique and important needs, including the economies, of communities are often not considered when policies are developed, and therefore, Yukon Government policies may end up inadvertently harming rural communities.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP Government would immediately create a communities policy lens that would require all new corporate policy proposals to be reviewed through the lens of its potential impact and benefits to the Yukon's communities. New corporate policies would include a section on community impacts. This requirement would ensure that the needs and interests of Yukoners outside of Whitehorse are included in every relevant policy decision of the Yukon government.

Ensuring responsive emergency fire service in communities

Problem:
Currently the recruitment, training and retention of qualified rural volunteer firefighters is the responsibility of a program area, not a position. This has resulted in communities being unable to defend themselves when fires have occurred and the senseless loss of historic buildings and homes.

Solution:
Create a specific position, or ensure that an existing position, within the fire marshal's office has direct responsibility for the maintenance and staffing of volunteer fire departments within the rural communities.

Valuing literacy in the communities

Problem:
Hardworking librarians in communities work to promote literacy and assist with research, education, and healthy recreation. Unfortunately, they are not compensated equitably to librarians who work in Whitehorse.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP values literacy, healthy recreation and workers, and would work to ensure community librarians are compensated equitably to their counterparts in Whitehorse.

Transit between communities

Problem:
The lack of transit between communities as well as into Whitehorse is not just a matter of convenience. It has been identified as a public health problem as well in the coroner's report in the death of Cynthia Blackjack. More must be done to ensure Yukoners in rural communities have access to affordable and useful transit options.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP government will work with communities, small businesses and First Nations, to introduce a scheduled bus service between communities by the third year of the mandate.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is the defining issue of our times. We are going to take strong, decisive action — both in prevention and in mitigation — to secure our home for generations to come.

Fracking/Non-renewable energy extraction

Problem:
In our current climate crisis, oil and gas are unwise investments due to both financial and environmental decline. Fracking and non-renewable energy extraction leads to irreversible environmental land and water contamination.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP remains committed to an outright ban on fracking and other non-renewable energy extraction anywhere in the Yukon.

Free public transit in Whitehorse

Problem:
Currently, potential users of transit in Whitehorse are dissuaded due to a variety of barriers. This results in the excessive use of personal vehicles for short distances, which contributes significantly to unnecessary carbon emissions.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government will work with the city of Whitehorse to make public transit free and remove barriers that stop people accessing this essential service. We will also work with the city to increase operating hours and ensure that the Handy Bus services Yukon Government property so that all users of the Handy Bus are truly able to access it.

Pesticides

Problem:
The Yukon's legislation on use of pesticides is sorely out-of-date and requires evidence-based changes in order to keep up with what we know to be true about harms created by pesticide use.

Solutions:
» Following the lead of multiple provinces in Canada, enact a ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides in the Yukon
» Ban the use of neonicotinoids to protect Yukon's bee population and therefore our unique biodiversity.

Protecting the Yukon's fish and wildlife

Problem:
There is currently no species at risk legislation in the Yukon which leaves many vulnerable species without protection.

Solution:
Develop and enact long-overdue Species-at-Risk legislation, working closely with First Nation governments, boards and councils, and stakeholders.

Enhance the stocked lakes program

Problem:
The stocked lake fishing program is long overdue for an update which takes into account angling demand in the Yukon and climate change.

Solution:
Enhance the stocked lake fishing programs for increased and improved angling access in partnership with Yukon First Nations.

Proactively mitigating climate change and leading by example

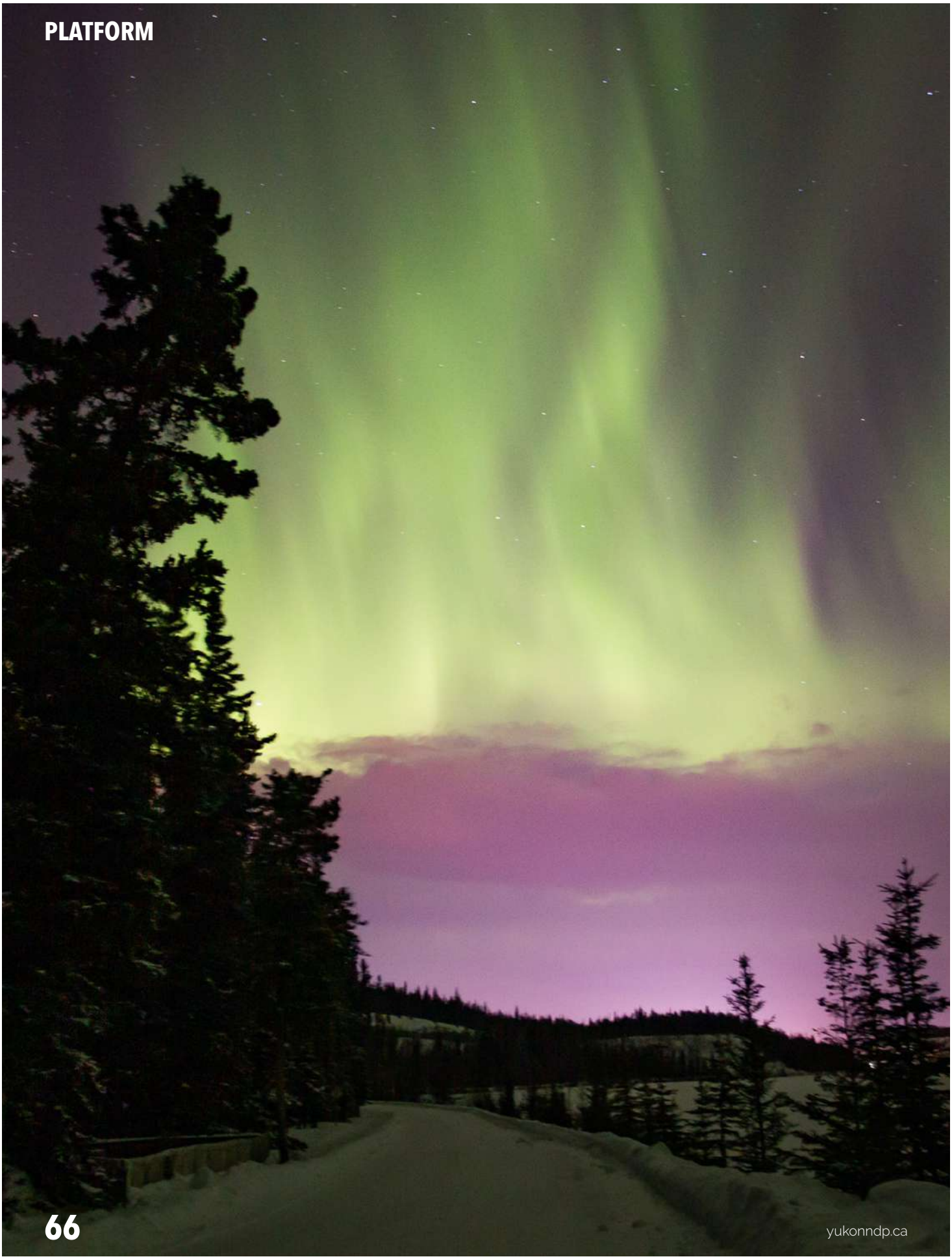
Problem:
The Yukon, and Indigenous communities in Yukon in particular, are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis. We are losing permafrost, glacier ice, and the weather conditions in which our unique ecosystems thrive at a devastating rate, and our ways of life are already suffering as a result. We must take steps to be part of the solution and lead by example.

Solutions:
A Yukon NDP government will:

» Boldly set a target of a 45% reduction over 2010 levels by 2030 as per the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2018.

» The Yukon NDP will also commit to a goal of protecting at least 50% of the Yukon's land and waters in partnership with First Nations and the Inuvialuit through land use planning and other available measures.

» Create an industry roundtable, including mining, to coordinate and mutually support efforts at



territory-wide carbon reduction.

» Include the mining emissions within the Yukon's overall 2030 emissions reduction. target, rather than treating mining separately
» Require Yukon mines to meet absolute emissions reductions standards, not intensity targets.
» Legally mandate an increase in energy efficiency of new building by 50% above the 2015 national building code, and assist new builders in achieving this increase with an energy-efficiency grant of up to 50% of the upfront costs required.
» Set an ambitious target of 2025 to 2030 to incrementally stop renting diesel generators, gradually diverting this money instead to the building of a variety of new green energy infrastructure.
» Continue to work towards diverse green energy solutions for off-grid communities.
» Continue to work towards a future that will eventually connect communities to a territory-wide energy grid.
» Immediately allocate $3 million annually to partnering with Yukon University to research and pilot green energy initiatives such as thermal storage, small run-of-river projects, geothermal projects, biofuel options, wind electricity generation, solar energy, and pumped storage.
» Work with the City of Whitehorse and First Nations to introduce a schedule for replacing the current public transportation fleet in Whitehorse with a net-zero emissions fleet.
» Place at least one rapid charging port for electric vehicles centrally in each grid-connected community.
» Work with small business to create rapid charging ports along grid-connected areas on the Alaska Highway to bring back roadhouses and draw EV tourism.
» As the largest employer in the territory, serve as a model for all Yukon employers by instituting permanent measures to support employees to make the choice to work from home.
» Decentralize Yukon Government employment and allow greater employment opportunities in the communities.

Making recycling make sense

Problem:

With our remote location, the Yukon faces unique challenges when it comes to diverting waste and recyclables from landfills and transfer stations.

Solutions:

A Yukon NDP government will:

» Establish incremental goals to achieve Yukon wide diversion rate of 80% by 2040, supporting municipalities and unincorporated communities to help them achieve these goals
» Work with local transport companies to ensure that trucks stop leaving the Yukon empty and instead, become part of the waste diversion solution.
» Create a support program for local small businesses innovatively helping Yukoners divert waste from the landfill.
» Partner with Alberta and British Columbia to become a part of their Extended Producer Responsibility programs to facilitate and increase the number of products to be recycled.

Protecting our wetlands and our water

Problem:
The Yukon currently lacks a sufficient wetlands protection and management plan. Wetlands are essential for the following reasons: They protect us from drought by holding water when conditions are dry. They protect us from climate change by reducing greenhouse gases. Wetlands protect wildlife. They provide hundreds of species with safe places to eat, sleep and raise young.

Solutions:
» Protect Yukon natural ecosystems, in consultation with First Nations and other stakeholders, by drafting and adopting legislation that would formally define and protect Yukon wetlands, wildlife habitats and other critical natural areas.
» Enacting an immediate pause on development, exploration and extraction in any undisturbed wetlands or other sensitive natural area until the territorial wetlands policy is complete and agreed to by Yukon First Nations and other key stakeholders.
» Initiate the identification and mapping of all wetlands, Yukon wide, beginning with areas most prone to development.
» Ensure that any final territorial wetlands policy includes cumulative effects thresholds as well project specific thresholds.
» Ban Industrial use of wetlands - wetlands shall not be used for any industrial purpose.
» Enact a formal No Net Loss principle to wetlands management, in which any non-Industrial development proposals on wetlands must include detailed plans to avoid negative impacts, to mitigate any impacts that may occur, and to fully offset any loss of wetland area by restoration of equal or greater wetlands areas elsewhere in the territory.
» Ban any development on irreplaceable peatlands wetlands and strictly limit development on marshland.
» Within two years, draft and present legislation, in consultation with First Nations and other stakeholders, that would formally define and protect Yukon wetlands, wildlife habitats and other critical natural areas based on the No Net Loss / No Industrial Use principles.

Protecting the Yukon's fresh water sources

Problem:
Fresh water is fast becoming a limited resource globally - the Yukon needs to act urgently and decisively to ensure that our water is protected for future generations.

Solution:
» Formally protect our freshwater as a public resource.
» Bolster data collection, monitoring and enforcement.
» Work with communities and First Nation governments to establish/support land guardian/stewardship programs to assist with environmental monitoring.

Proactively adapting to the climate change effects we already see

Problem:

We know that climate change is already happening in the Yukon, and we need to go into these changes with our eyes open, planning realistically for our future. We must act decisively today to ensure we have planned for tomorrow.

Solution:

A Yukon NDP government will:

» Work with First Nations and communities to establish localized climate change adaptation plans and to better understand the risks faced by those respective communities and where opportunities for adaptation exist.

» Introduce a no-interest loan program for homeowners faced with costly and urgent repairs due to permafrost melt, which is currently affecting many Yukon communities.

» Introduce a no-interest loan program for qualified energy retrofits.

» Introduce a low to no-interest loan program for landlords to facilitate qualified energy retrofits which would ensure housing becomes more efficient.

» Work with farmers to set ambitious targets for Yukon-produced food with a grown-in-Yukon strategy and initiatives.

» Create a $1 million community food security fund to build and maintain community greenhouses and root cellars in order to build community and produce food locally, reducing carbon emissions and increasing food security. Communities, First Nations and NGOs will also be able to access funding to teach valuable food production and preservation skills to people, especially youth.

A clear plan for when fires hits

Problem:

It's only a matter of time before a community is seriously threatened by wildfire.

Solution:

» We would create, and then share, a clear plan which shows that we are working with municipalities and First Nations, to ensure that all Yukoners knew how their home and business would and could be protected from wildfires.

» The Yukon NDP would introduce a complaint-based system for removal or thinning of excess or dead trees near residential properties.

» We would work with municipalities and First Nations to help small business take advantage of firesmarting opportunities to harvest wood for profit.

SECTION FOUR

Good Government

Yukoners want a responsible government that puts their priorities ahead of other interests and works in strong collaboration with First Nations Governments.

Electoral reform to ensure all votes count

Problem:
We have seen, time and time again, how partisanship can harm the health of a democracy. A reformed electoral system would create a collaborative government, where parties work together in shaping policy.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP will work to ensure our current system moves towards representing all votes equally through the introduction of a proportional voting system. We will work to ensure that every vote counts through a proportional representation system that benefits all Yukoners.

Keeping big money out of politics

Problem:
As it stands right now, people and corporations from outside of the Yukon have undue influence over elections in the form of massive cheques made out to the Yukon Liberals and the Yukon Party. These parties are funded almost entirely by large corporate donations. The Yukon NDP refuses contributions from corporations and labour unions because we believe that only Yukon voters should have a voice in Yukon politics.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP will get big money out of politics by:

» Capping the amount of money any one individual can donate to a political party, levelling the playing field so those with deep pockets don't have more influence than everyone else.

» Making it so that only individuals can donate to political parties, not businesses or unions.

Better workplaces and acountability all the way through government

Problem:
The government runs most efficiently when leaders are examples of the best public servants possible. Stories about problematic management being promoted instead of performance managed are rife throughout the Yukon Government.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government would hold all employees in management positions accountable to a code of ethics to ensure the taxpayer is getting value for money, along with working with leadership champions within departments to ensure high-performing front-line employees access the training and experience they require to move into leadership positions.

Working with the Francophone community in the Yukon

Problem:
The Francophone community in the Yukon is a diverse and vibrant group made up of many cultures and both born-and-raised Canadians as well as new immigrants. As it is isolated from other Francophone communities, it is essential that this unique Francophone culture is protected and nurtured with a multifaceted approach.

Solutions:
A Yukon NDP government would work collaboratively with the Yukon's Francophone community to protect and promote the French language as well as the unique Franco-Yukonnais culture and heritage that are a vibrant part of the Yukon's past, present and future.
This commitment would include:

» Ensuring access to government services in French, including and especially healthcare, through the development of a bilingual community health clinic by 2025.
» Expanding course and program offerings in French at Yukon University.
» Promoting Francophone immigration into the Yukon.
» Ensuring application and enforcement of the Languages Act.
» Committing to the overarching goal of ensuring that Franco-Yukoners can continue to live, work and play in French, and to pass on their language, culture and heritage to future generations.

Working with First Nations Governments: UNDRIP

Problem:
The Yukon government has not yet committed to adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government would move swiftly to adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and commit to aligning all territorial legislation with the goals and recommendations

within the document within the mandate.

First Nation consent for resource extraction

Problem:
It is a practical reality that no mines proceed without First Nation participation and approval, yet there is no legal requirement for consent for mining activity on Yukon First Nations' traditional territory. There is no legal requirement for consent for any resource extraction activity, either renewable or nonrenewable, on any traditional territory, anywhere in the Yukon.

Solution:
It is time to extend the respect required, and make Yukon First Nations' consent a requirement for all resource development, renewable and non-renewable, anywhere on the traditional territory of Yukon First Nations.

Prioritising land use plans

Problem:
The Yukon Government and First Nations have agreed that establishing land use plans are the basis for sustainable development in the Yukon. The problem is that currently there is only one completed, and many outstanding. This situation is causing uncertainty for both industry as well as First Nations and people who use the land for hunting, fishing, agriculture, leisure and spiritual practices.

Solutions:

» Create a schedule for land use planning so that all land use plans in the Yukon are done as soon as is practicable, with the explicit stipulation that while land use plans are being developed, there will be a staking moratorium in the planning area.

» Commit to working with First Nations without a final agreement to complete planning and where there is a desire from the nation, to establish Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) within their territories.

» The Yukon NDP will also commit to a goal of protecting at least 50% of the Yukon's land and waters in partnership with First Nations and the Inuvialuit through land use planning and other available measures.

Protecting Yukon Businesses

Problem:
Currently, The Miner's Lien Act currently allows controlling shareholders to lend their company unreasonably large amounts of money that will get repaid in a bankruptcy before local contractors and suppliers get their due support

Solution:
Amend the Miners Lien Act to ensure that Yukon mining suppliers and contractors get paid first if a mining company declares bankruptcy.

Getting the Yukon's Fair Share for its Resources

Problem:
Resource extraction is an important part of the Yukon's economy, and done right, resource extraction can be a benefit to all involved. However, too much

previous resource extraction has left Yukon business and government on the hook for services and clean-up for mines that went bankrupt, and not enough money was left in the Yukon to pay for these services or to benefit future generations. A royalty is a payment to the government for the privilege of extracting resources from public lands, and is not a replacement for appropriate remediation funding. In the Yukon Mineral Strategy and the 2017 Yukon Financial Advisory Report a royalty review was recommended in order to ensure fair royalties are charged for resource extraction.

Solution:
It is essential that Yukoners as a whole, including Yukon First Nations, benefit from the many resource development opportunities within the Yukon. A Yukon NDP government will:

» Revise royalty rates, fee structures, permit and licensing costs for mining in the Yukon to ensure the resource extraction benefits are fair, meaningful, comparable with other jurisdictions, and benefit future generations.
» Modify Yukon's quartz royalty regime in the modernized mineral resource legislation to ensure Yukoners receive fair and meaningful financial returns from mining activities while also ensuring competitiveness with other Canadian jurisdictions.
» Partial revenues from any royalty increases will help establish a legacy fund from the royalties to make sure that Yukon has money for a rainy day and to pay into needed supports and services for Yukoners today.
» Enforce the remediation fund to ensure that all payments into it are timely, complete, and the citizens of the Yukon are not on the hook for any more cleanup of resource extraction.

Hiring Veterans

Problem:
Veterans struggle to find employment after leaving the forces due to a variety of factors. This is a travesty since veterans have already shown themselves to be dedicated, hardworking civil servants willing to sacrifice for their country and we must ensure that they are able to earn a good living after they return to civilian life.

Solution:
Create a program in partnership with the Legion that both assists veterans in the application and interview process for Yukon government positions, but also maintains a database of veterans interested in working for the Yukon government with their skill set, so they could be notified when positions matching those skills were posted.

Back to "The"

Problem:
The Yukon is a special place, with a unique, multifaceted identity, which has changed and evolved with the times - one thing that has not changed is the strong preference for "The Yukon" over "Yukon".

Solution:
A Yukon NDP government would officially change all government communication, signage (through attrition), and style guide back to "The Yukon" to respect the will and right of Yukoners to define the name of the place they call home.

Representation for seniors and elders in government

Problem:
Almost one in every five Yukoners is a senior or elder. Seniors and elders have specific policy needs but there is no representation for them in government so their needs are often not considered. Yukoners in their senior and elder years need to have a direct touchpoint for issues that affect them differently than the rest of the Yukon.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP proposes to launch, in its first year of government, a Seniors' and Elders' directorate. This directorate would:

» Offer a touchpoint for Yukon seniors who require help by funding, through an appropriate NGO, a Seniors' services navigator
» Assist all departments in developing. appropriate policy across departments, from housing, to health, to economic development and beyond, that considers the needs and strengths of seniors.
» Facilitate access to appropriate consultants, such as gerontologists, in order to ensure health needs of seniors are taken into account in all services offered by YG, not just senior-specific services.
» Build relationships, and consult with, seniors' advocacy groups in Yukon regularly.

Bringing the Accessible Canada Act to the Yukon

In 2019, the federal government of Canada created the Accessible Canada Act which is intended to identify, remove, and prevent barriers in everyday life for people with disabilities. This Act requires proactive measures to avoid discrimination in services and other areas of life, and puts the onus on the provider of services to work to remove barriers rather than a complaint-based system, which is currently in place.

Problem:
The Accessible Canada Act only covers areas of life under federal jurisdiction, like banks, or cross-border travel. Areas of life under provincial and territorial jurisdictions, like healthcare, or education, are not covered by this Act, and neither are any buildings not owned by the federal government, or any employer who isn't the federal government. The list goes on.

Solutions:

» Create and enact mirror legislation for the Yukon so that the spirit of the Accessible Canada Act is broadly applicable in the Yukon, and barriers are removed for people living with disabilities.
» Work with partners such as NGOs and First Nations to create and supply training for the government, private employers, First Nations, and other applicable consumers so Yukoners understand how to remove barriers for people with disabilities.
» Work with the business community to find solutions to offset costs for accessibility improvements.

Public guardianship rules for Yukoners living with a disability

Problem:
Public guardianship rules in the Yukon are out of date, too strict, and do not ensure that the wishes of the person under guardianship, or necessarily their circle of care, are taken into account.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP would move to review the guardianship rules across Canada with an eye to updating our rules to be sure that we uphold the human rights and dignity of Yukoners with disabilities while ensuring appropriate decisions are made to protect their quality of life and safety.

Adhering to UN Standards for Rights of People with Disabilities

Problem:
Yukoners living with disabilities have been waiting for a decade to monitor their own human rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which says the rights holders themselves must be part of the monitoring process.

Solution:
The Yukon NDP will fund an independent monitoring mechanism for and by Yukoners with disabilities, as the rights holders, to monitor the implementation of their human rights in the Yukon.

Working with nonprofits and non-governmental organizations effectively

Problem:
Nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) spend a lot of valuable time and staff resources on applying for, and reporting on, grants. While accountability in government funding is paramount, it is not efficient to spend money and time on having NGOs and non-profits repeatedly and frequently account for funding they have already shown they can spend efficiently.

Solution:
Increase the time between reporting periods for NGOs and non-profits that have shown that they can spend the money efficiently. Start with one-year and work up to three-year funding periods with yearly check-ins from a representative from the funding directorate or governmental agency.

FISCAL FRAMEWORK

The Yukon NDP platform is a strong plan that will make people's lives better. We think it's wrong to make average people pay for the cost of this pandemic and our recovery from it. Instead, we're going to ask the people who make the most to pay a little more.

The Yukon NDP will pay for its investments in people by:

» Raising taxes on people who make over $250,000 in personal income by 1% - bringing the territory in line with other jurisdictions. Right now, those who make $151,000 annually pay the same as people who make more than three times as much income. We envision the new rate for those making more than $250,000 a year in personal income to raise to 13.9%. This new tax rate would be competitive, as it would still be lower than anyone falling in a comparable tax bracket in any of our nearest neighbours: NWT, BC and Alberta.

» Charging fly-in/fly-out workers who pay their taxes in other places a 2% tax to help pay their share of the services they use in the Yukon. We believe that money made in the Yukon ought to benefit the Yukon, and that jobs should go to Yukoners first. However, fly in and fly out workers will continue to exist, and those workers make use of Yukon services and amenities, but spend their earnings elsewhere. We would implement a 2% contribution which would only be charged for workers who file their income tax outside of the Yukon. Yukoners would benefit by having the financial contribution which will go back into maintaining services and infrastructure we all enjoy.

» Getting the Yukon's fair share for its resources by raising mining royalties. The Yukon routinely makes more from camping fees than we do from placer gold royalties. It's high time that Yukoners, including Yukon First Nations, get a fair return on the resource development that takes place here. We'll do a comprehensive review of royalties in the territory.

» We'll use the planned revenue surplus in 2022-23 and 2023-24 to work for Yukoners. This amounts to a combined total of $114.8 million over that period. We believe that extraordinary events, like this global pandemic, require the government to invest to keep the economy moving and make life more affordable for people.

» Reallocating existing funds to align with Yukoners' priorities. In the first year of a Yukon NDP government, we'll review government

spending to ensure that it is in line with Yukoners' priorities. People want affordable housing, not $1.5 million dollar investments in an irrigation system for a golf course. We will undergo a careful review of Operations and Maintenance and Capital spending priorities relative to Yukon voter expectations to ensure that funds are being put to use for maximum Yukon benefits.

Upon forming government, we will immediately seek partnerships with the Government of Canada to support further economic and community investments addressing our regional challenges with COVID-19 impacts that continue for many sectors of the economy and to jointly-fund capital investments and other mutual public program service priorities serving the North.

Yukon NDP Priorities

New Expenditure Allocations

The revenue generated will be allocated to new priorities approximately in the following ways.

- **Strengthening Healthcare** - 30%
- **Improving Services (Housing, Education, Tackling Poverty, Youth)** - 30%
- **Economy that works for Everyone (Infrastructure, Transportation, Rural Communities, Environment and Climate Change)** - 30%
- **Good Government** - 10%

A number of the enhancements and policy proposals in the Yukon NDP platform build on commitments already made by previous governments, for example, we will build on the investments already committed to by the current government under the Putting People First plan.

Other priorities will bring about universality in terms of health and social service outcomes, however those already receiving employer or government dental and prescription drug coverage will be excluded or subject to payer of last resort from the proposed coverage in the Yukon NDP Platform.

YUKON

You can trust Kate White and the Yukon NDP Team to follow through on these commitments.

We hope you'll join with us in making this vision a reality.

Kate White and the Yukon NDP

YUKON NDP

CONTACT US

PHONE 867-668-2203

EMAIL yukon@ndp.ca

MAIL PO Box 31516
Whitehorse, Yukon
V1A 6K8