Government of Yukon Priorities, 2017



Our people-centred approach to wellness helps Yukoners thrive.

Yukoners have access to government programs and services that support their well-being from infant to elders.

What does this mean?

Yukoners can access public healthcare and education that meets their needs.

Yukoners are served by a justice system that supports our shared safety.

Yukoners know their government supports inclusiveness and respect for diversity in it's programming and services.

Meet Georgina

Georgina is a retired widow in her early 70s born and raised in Whitehorse. Her family first came to Yukon from Seattle over the Chilkoot Pass in 1897. She still lives in the same house she shared with her husband before he died. Georgina likes to stay connected with her community as well as with what's going on Outside.

Georgina participates in the Community Day Program at the Thomson Centre 2-3 times per week and depends on the \$5 program fee to fit her budget. Georgina looks forward to the program every week and makes it a priority in her life.

Georgina also likes to visit the Whitehorse Public Library because she is an avid reader and occasionally meets friends there to socialize. Georgina doesn't have a computer at home and uses the public computer at the library to check her email and see what's going on in the world.

Georgina is happy to still be living in the home she and her husband shared for many years, but is finding it increasingly difficult to maintain. However, she appreciates the Seniors' Home and Yard Maintenance Program and the Home Owner's rebate, and hopes to age in her home.

Unfortunately, Georgina was diagnosed with osteoporosis last year. Through the Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits Program she receives financial assistance for her prescription drug, which helps her stay active and healthy.

For Georgina, success of this priority means:

That Yukoners of all ages can lead a healthy and happy life.

While she is particularly concerned that Seniors are properly supported, she is also happy that young people are moving back to Yukon and hopes her grandkids will find work here after attending university down south.

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Government of Yukon Priorities, 2017

Our strategic investments build healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities.

Focus on finding local solutions to local concerns makes life better for Yukon's people throughout the territory.

Focus on building and maintaining roads, bridges and other infrastructure to improve the guality of life in communities.

Focus on helping communities define the economic future they want based on their interests and advantages.

William and wife Beth are in their 30s and live in Haines Junction. They have two small children and are expecting their third this fall. Both William and Beth grew up in Yukon - their parents met during the Faro boom in the late 70s and enjoy the outdoor living experience in their rural community during all seasons. William works for a Whitehorse-based contracting company and commutes to the city for most jobs; sometimes he stays in Whitehorse with a friend. Beth is a stay-at-home-mom who is thinking about starting a family day home in order to supplement their income.

William and Beth use the Health Centre as their eldest child (Brandon, age 5) has developmental disabilities. In the next five years, they expect his needs to change and are hopeful that the services he uses today in the Junction, as well as those in Whitehorse, continue to be funded.

William and Beth hope Haines Junction continues to grow and attract young families; they believe government investments that support an active community with amenities are important to attract and retain people. Given they live in Kluane-country, they also believe the same investments in outdoor recreation and amenities will mean more tourist dollars in their community.

Because they live in one of the communities, they value access to services at the local Territorial Agent, which allows them to do things like renew their motor vehicle registration and make water and property tax payments. Having this option means more recreation and quality time for their young family.

For William & Beth, success of this priority means:

That communities like Haines Junction will continue to attract new families and retain those already living there.

William and Beth know that three-quarters of the population live in Whitehorse, however they believe it is important to all Yukoners that all communities across Yukon thrive.

They would like to see the population decline in the communities slow down and hopefully reverse itself.

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Meet William & Beth

Government of Yukon Priorities, 2017



Our strong government-to-government relationships with First Nations foster reconciliation.

Reconciliation efforts based on mutual understanding and respect.

What does this mean?

Continued efforts to foster a constructive relationship that contributes to good governance and benefits all Yukoners.

A commitment to working together to build a more cohesive society, protect our environment and grow a sustainable economy.

Meet Elvin

Elvin is a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation elder who lives in Dawson City. Elvin was born and raised in Northern Tutchone territory and spent his young adult years in Vancouver. Elvin was inspired to return to Yukon by the work of Elijah Smith and other First Nation leaders. He has been back in Dawson for over two decades. Elvin believes in preserving his culture in a modern world. Elvin is an active member of the community and Elder Council because he cares deeply about strengthening his government and serving his people.

Elvin is passionate about reconciliation and partnering with other government agencies to revitalize the culture within First Nation communities. Elvin is involved in ongoing conversations about how to construct a gathering circle in his community, which would also help create temporary jobs for community members and youth. Both the Community Development Fund and Lotteries Yukon are important funding sources in bringing First Nation and non-First Nation youth together.

Elvin also appreciates the Basic Trapper Education program run through the Department of Environment because it helps young people connect with the land and their heritage, both of which build a sense of belonging.

Finally, Elvin also thinks the Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund is critical in the context of the Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women's Inquiry. These programs are vital to strengthening his people and the relationship they have with other levels of government.

For Elvin, success of this priority means:

That the Yukon government upholds that commitment to a relationship.

Elvin would like to see the Yukon Forum continue as a way to continue building a strong government-togovernment relationship. He would like to see more opportunities for First Nations to be at the decision-making tables and work to-gether towards a common fu-ture for First Nation citizens and all Yukoners.

Elvin believes Yukon could be a global leader for Indigenous peoples' self-determination, and believes this can happen while benefiting all Canadians.

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QRIORIX 4 Government of Yukon Priorities, 2017 verse, growing economy provides go

Our diverse, growing economy provides good jobs for Yukoners in an environmentally responsible way.

We are committed to helping strengthen and diversify Yukon's economy.

What does this mean?

We recognize that the economy and the environment go hand in hand.

We are committed to creating the conditions that enable new private sector jobs for Yukoners.

Meet Adam

Adam recently moved to Whitehorse from Nova Scotia. Adam was originally recruited by the Yukon government to help with its GIS computer modeling but recently left government to start his own company that provides data-management services for the mining and forestry sectors in Yukon. Adam hopes his company will help grow the knowledge sector and support the desire for economic diversification. Adam is thrilled to have a small contract with an exploration company in Labrador and has made a good connection with an outfit in Nevada.

Adam spent months researching and preparing his business launch, and he worked with a variety of government departments to help him register his business and launch in potential markets. For example, Adam used the Enterprise Trade Fund to get to a mining conference in Toronto.

Adam is your typical remote worker: sometimes he works at home, coffee-shops, and more recently, the local coworking space. Adam knows that the Department of Economic Development provided early start-up assistance to the coworking space and thinks spaces like this will allow the knowledge sector to grow. He thinks other communities should also have a coworking space because they provide the environment for start-up organizations to grow.

Adam is taking a few courses at Yukon College as well as working with Cold Climate Innovation to help him increase his knowledge and grow his business. Adam is convinced good data management can increase exploration profitability as well as reduce the negative impacts on the environment.

For Adam, success of this priority means:

That the Yukon government continues to invest in programs and spaces that allow business start-ups to grow and thrive.

Adam, like most people who moved from Outside, knows that the quality of life in Yukon is unparalleled. He hopes the government continues to make strategic investments that recruit more people from Outside, and provides the incentives for them to start a new business.

One thing he would like to see improved is a business startup portal: while there are lots of services and programs, it can be confusing to navigate.

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