

The City of Yellowknife – Thriving Together, Growing Stronger!

Yellowknife is evolving from its government and industrial mining town origins into a vibrant economic and service centre and destination for adventure seekers, nature lovers, and those in search of a close-knit, welcoming community.

Situated in Canada’s subarctic on Chief Drygeese Territory, Yellowknife lies within the traditional lands of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Tłı̨chǫ’s Mǫwǫhì Gogha Dè Nǫjłłèè and ancestral home to members of the North Slave Métis Alliance.

Yellowknife is a vibrant and multicultural city, where over 21,000 residents from across the globe contribute to a lively and diverse community. With 11 official languages — 9 of which are Indigenous — our community is deeply rooted in Indigenous culture and history, adding rich depth that shapes the city’s identity.

As the capital of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife plays a central role in regional development, offering a growing economy, access to funding opportunities, and top-tier infrastructure, including the newly opened Aquatic Centre. Residents enjoy excellent services and community programs, and the city is alive with events, talent, and fresh energy as new people continue to arrive.

City Council remains focused on responsible budgeting, ensuring public funds are invested wisely to support a safe, inclusive, and high-quality living environment. The City of Yellowknife remains deeply committed to advancing Council’s strategic directions - **People First**, **Service Excellence**, and **Building a Sustainable Future**. Through collaboration, innovation, and dedication, we continue working to ensure a thriving city for all who call Yellowknife home.

People First

The City was pleased to welcome residents into the highly anticipated \$72 million-dollar Aquatic Centre this year. This new facility was built with an

innovative design, allowing for more amenities, and increased accessibility and sustainability. As part of its vision for Yellowknife’s future, the city is modernizing infrastructure with a clear focus on long-term planning to support a thriving, well-planned community.

In 2025 we initiated a comprehensive update to the Community Plan and begun developing a Transportation Plan. Both plans aim to support a more connected, sustainable, and livable city. Together, they guide thoughtful growth, improve quality of life, enhance mobility for all residents, and align with ongoing environmental and economic goals.

Budget 2025 funded key foundational planning exercises for both the organization and the community. From within, the city is aiming to modernize its corporate structure, systems and governance with an eye to being more efficient, effective and responsive to the changing needs of the community.

Service Excellence

Key reports on organizational structure, IT and systems management, and improved work planning tracking and reporting will drive change in 2026. By January 2026, internal corporate governance will be more clearly described between senior leadership and middle managers resulting in better integration and decision making at all levels – while delivering results for Yellowknifers.

By spring 2026, residents will see a new look, feel and improved navigability of its website. The website update is a “downpayment” towards a shift to a 311-service model – where residents and businesses will be able to reach all services with the click of a button or dialing a single number. 311 will take more time to roll out but the building blocks will be assembled throughout 2026 and beyond.

Team City of Yellowknife will continue to build engagement skills with residents and businesses drawing upon its successes in 2025 on its Master Transportation Plan as Yellowknife 2050, its community plan update.

BUDGET MESSAGE

Lastly, the City was pleased to welcome residents into the highly anticipated \$72 million-dollar Aquatic Centre this year. This new facility was built with an innovative design, allowing for more amenities, and increased accessibility and sustainability. As part of its vision for Yellowknife's future, the City is modernizing infrastructure with a clear focus on long-term planning to support a thriving, well-planned community.

While modernization remained a key priority in 2025, significant progress was achieved across all areas of the organization, guided by Council's Strategic Directions, which provided a clear framework for action.

2026 Brings More Growth and Opportunity

In 2026, the City of Yellowknife will continue to re-evaluate and improve our services and operations in several key areas, using the framework outlined in Council's Strategic Directions.

Community Services

- Yellowknife Public Library to expand the Tłıchq Beading program for additional months as a response to growing popularity. This is a joint program with College Nordique.
- The addition of year-round security to ensure that the Library remains a safe and welcoming space for all.
- Monitor and evaluate the Aquatic Centre building and systems to ensure any issues are identified and addressed during the warranty period.
- Monitor the Aquatic Centre programs to ensure the programs evolve to meet the needs of the community.
- Continue to support the work in the development of the City's Asset Management Plan.

Corporate Services

- Enterprise Resource Planning/311 Implementation
- Implementation of IT Review and Audit recommendations
- Budget 2027
- Financial Audit 2025

- Completion of the Asset Management Plan
- Review and update of Procurement Policies
- Review and update Budgeting process
- Review and update financial policies and by-laws

Economic Opportunities and Investments

- Repeal and replacement of Business Licence By-law
- Website Modernization Project

Governance & Legal Services

- Review of Council Procedures By-law
- Election preparation for Fall 2026 election
- New Council orientation and work planning
- Update Council policies
- Transition to agenda and meeting management software
- Planning for records and information management updates to framework, policies, and document management system

Human Resources

- Updating/Modernizing HR Directives & Procedures
- Updating Corporate Training Register
- Updating OHS Procedures
- Implementation of new OHS Framework
- Development and implementation of HR Help Desk Ticketing Platform

Planning & Development

- Complete Community Plan Update
- Begin public consultation on Zoning By-law Update
- Continue intensification developments
- Commence Area Development Plan design for Taylor Road
- Complete Area Development Plan for Kam Lake 2.0
- Support municipal service extensions and land need



- Create a Development Applications and approval webpage
- Provide council options to expand Development Incentives
- Transition to electronic records for all internal work
- Implementation of the Climate Action Plan

Public Safety

- Launch of Priority Dispatch
- City Business Continuity Plan
- Ongoing plan development and improvements, training, and engagement with community emergency response partners
- Advance FireSmart disciplines for interagency cooperation, cross-training, and vegetation management.
- Implementation and migration to new dispatch call-processing model; Priority Dispatch to improve on quality, accuracy and speeding of service requests.
- Migration of computer aided dispatch and records management platform to replace sun-setting legacy software to improve usability, accessibility, and performance.
- Advance Fire Division water shuttle service for non-hydrant areas of Yellowknife to achieve Superior Tanker shuttle recognition through Fire Underwriters Survey.
- Build depth into our public education through increased public appearance such as open houses and attendance at more public events.
- Renovate the firefighter recruitment program.
- Customer Service Modernization (digital/virtual processes)
- MED Software and Equipment Modernization
- Increasing the number of MED Officers to enhance services; particularly in the downtown core
- Enhancing Officer service and expertise by creating a modernized training program

Public Works

- Updated Emergency Response Plan for landfill fires
- PDO improvements
- New tipping fee structure
- Commencement of Stormwater Receiving Environment Study. This project will determine the effects to the surrounding environment by the City's stormwater system.
- Commencement of the Water Treatment Facility Operations and Maintenance Plan Project. This will be complete by internal resources and will act as reference material for operators at the Water Treatment Plant.
- Address safety concerns at remote water sampling stations. This project will require the construction of landing pads and stairs in remote areas along the Fiddlers Lagoon Treatment System.
- Commencement of the Great Slave Lake Monitoring Sampling Program. This project will require multiple years of sampling within Great Slave Lake to help determine loading for City operations.
- Continuation of the Solid Waste Facility Design, Operations, and Closure Plan. This project is to outline how the Solid Waste Facility is intended to be designed, operated, and closed while meeting regulatory requirements, best practices, and operational efficiencies.
- Continuation of the Landfill Gas Assessment Project. This program is designed to identify landfill gas emissions and potential strategies for managing such emissions.
- Continuation of the Solid Waste Facility Hydrogeological Study and Groundwater Trendline Analysis Project. This project will help identify the groundwater and hydrogeological conditions and impacts from the Solid Waste Facility operations.
- Analysis of regulatory requirements internally to determine where efficiencies can be found and more cost-effective ways of operating while meeting all regulatory requirements.

BUDGET MESSAGE

- Continuation of the Solid Waste Facility Design, Operations, and Closure Plan. This project is to outline how the Solid Waste Facility is intended to be designed, operated, and closed while meeting regulatory requirements, best practices, and operational efficiencies.
- Continue ensuring the City of Yellowknife remains in full compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements, while consistently meeting established deadlines.
- 11 SCFA Service Upgrades
- 65 SCFA Repairs, on pace for 80 in 2025
- 2 Water Main Repairs
- 8 pieces of mobile equipment tendered
- Summer and winter street maintenance for all City roads
- Maintained Fleet of 226 Pieces of Equipment (Light Duty Vehicles, Heavy Duty Vehicles, Stationary Engines for pumps and Generators, Specialty Equipment, Off-Road Equipment, Trailers)
- Operated and Maintained 14 Lift Stations, 6 Pump houses, and the Water Treatment Plant
- Commenced a Water Master Plan Study, identified need for a new Water Pressure zone to support future City growth
- Research and Development Study on Pipe materials for private services and mains to improve the lifecycle of buried piped infrastructure

