

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Delivering Results Through Strategic Leadership

In 2025, the City of Yellowknife demonstrated resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to its residents. Despite ongoing challenges, including rising operational costs and evolving community needs, City Council remained focused on responsible budgeting and strategic decision-making. Guided by the principles of People First, Service Excellence, and Building a Sustainable Future, the City advanced key initiatives that strengthened municipal services, supported vulnerable populations, and fostered economic and social development. These highlights showcase the City's accomplishments over the past year and outline the financial framework that will continue to support a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable Yellowknife.

People First

Community Services

- Yellowknife Public Library partnered with the GNWT Department of Health and Social Services to have a HealthBox installed in the library, providing free and private health care products (including Naloxone kits, HIV testing kits, condoms, toothbrushes, drug testing kits, and more).
- Progress on the implementation of accessibility projects including the purchase of an accessible podium for Council Chamber, improved accessible access at Lakeview Cemetery, installation of accessible basketball standards in parks and installation of an accessible access door to the Curling Club.
- Development and implementation of the Advanced Street Outreach Program.
- Successful launch and opening of the Aquatic Centre.

Economic Opportunities and Investments

- Signed Destination Marketing Agreement with NWT Tourism
- Community Engagement on Transportation Plan, Place branding and Downtown Safety Initiative Projects
- Hosted international delegates (Arctic Urban Regional Cooperation, foreign ambassadors, Arctic Mayor's Forum)
- Completed Public Engagement Guidelines
- Hosting Gold Mining Education workshops in Yellowknife and Dettah with community partners including YKDFN and Det'on Cho Logistics

Governance and Legal Services

- Supported Council's appointment of a new Mayor and member of Council
- Consolidating and transitioning committee supports to the Office of the City Clerk
- Procured and supported Council's renewal of the Integrity Commissioner contract

Human Resources

- The City successfully reached a four-year Collective Agreement with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) – Municipal Enforcement Officers.
- Updated and revitalized its Performance Management Process, resulting in significant improvement in completion rates.
- From January 1 to September 30, 2025, the Human Resources Division successfully recruited 51 full-time permanent positions, reducing the City's overall vacancy rate from 16.7% to 7.69% - 53.95% reduction since the start of the year. This achievement marks a substantial improvement in recruitment and retention outcomes.

2025 Accomplishments

Planning and Development

- Completed Phase I and II public consultation on the Community Plan
- Updated purchase and lease agreements for land disposal
- Applied for land to the GNWT to support commercial and residential development for 25 years
- Completed Population, Economic and Lands needs study

Public Safety

- Community Preparedness/Engagement
- Launch of City personal preparedness materials (guide, workbook, brochures)
- Public engagement on both of the above at the Community Tradeshow
- Ongoing engagement through multiple events with Red Cross/other groups and Memorandum of Understanding with Salvation Army
- Participated in the NWT Wildfire Preparedness Workshop 2025
- Completed an update to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and created a Wildfire Interface Response Plan to operational primary and secondary wildfire response.
- Increased wildfire preparedness by building on Fire Smart disciplines to increase the number of Yellowknife Fire Division (YKFD) staff certified as Home Ignition Zone ambassadors, in addition to the FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Program through training all Captains as specialists.
- Improved inter-agency cooperation between MED and the RCMP
- Addressed Homeless Encampments through respectful engagement
- Provided support to significant community events such as Red Dress March and National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Public Works

- Commenced a Water Master Plan Study, identified need for a new Water Pressure zone to support future City growth

Service Excellence

Community Services

- Completed several Asset Management projects including replacement of the Multiplex Ice Plant Evaporative Cooler; various parks and playground upgrades/replacements; cemetery expansion etc.

Corporate Services

- Completion of the IT Review and Audit
- Completion of the 2024 Financial Audit
- Completion of Budget 2026
- Near completion of the Water & Sewer Rate Review
- Mill Rate Policy

Economic Opportunities and Investments

- Welcomed the 100,000th visitor to the Visitor Information Centre

Governance & Legal Services

- Transition of communications functions and website from Office of the City Clerk to Economic Opportunities and Investments
- Continued advancement of records and information management audit
- Implementing work planning reporting tool and dashboard
- Initiated agenda management project (estimated completion 2026)
- Started preparation for Election 2026

Human Resources

- The City retained the services of Blackline Consulting to conduct a comprehensive Organizational Review. The review examines the City's strategic direction, business and operational model, and corporate and departmental responsibilities and workloads. Its



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objective is to identify options and develop recommendations that will strengthen the City's capacity to respond to future financial and program scenarios, enhance efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery, and align with strategic priorities.

Planning & Development

- Launched new CityView electronic permitting system
- Launched Development Incentives city wide
- Updated purchase and lease agreements for land disposal
- Partner with CMHC to implement use of residential design catalogue
- Standardized pre-consultation meetings for all development proposals

Public Safety

- Training
- Participation in cross-government training and exercises
- Fleet and equipment procurement to modernize protection for staff and residents; including quick deployment Emergency Rehab warming/cooling shelters, advanced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instruments, an ambulance and a command vehicle.
- Advanced the Division within the City Asset Management Program.
- Modernization of directives and guidelines to align with YKFD overall administrative, operational and training and development program; including a new Learning Management Software (LMS), with the goal of transitioning to a paperless training environment.
- Mayor and Council's Strategic Priorities for Municipal Enforcement Division

Public Works

- Finalized the Water Treatment Plant Flocculant Optimization Study Project. This program evaluated the flocculant usage for municipal

water treatment within Yellowknife and provided recommendations on future operations and monitoring.

- Finalized the Stormwater Management Plan and Stormwater Trend Analysis Project. This program describes the City's efforts to address stormwater infrastructure and maintenance. Additionally, this program outlines strategies to minimize stormwater related impacts on the surrounding environment.
- Finalized the 2025 Biennial Geotechnical Inspection Program. This program ensures that all dams, berms, dykes, and control structures associated with the Fiddlers Lake Lagoon system are inspected and recommendations on maintenance are made.
- Finalized the Lagoon Desludging Options Project. This program outlines the City's challenges, budget requirements, and methods for future lagoon desludging programs.
- Landfill Gas Assessment Project Commencement. This program is designed to identify landfill gas emissions and potential strategies for managing such emissions.
- 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.
- 11 Service Connection Failure Assistance (SCFA) Service Upgrades
- 65 Service Connection Failure Assistance (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

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Sustainable Future

Economic Opportunities and Investments

- Develop Investment and Attraction Materials
- Launch of Shop Local and Entrepreneurship Week Initiatives

Governance & Legal Services

- Assisted with the establishment of working groups with GNWT partners regarding land issues and shared priorities

Planning & Development

- Standardized pre-consultation meetings for all development proposals
- Completed Climate Action Plan
- Undertook a Transportation Plan
- Rezoned, subdivided and held ballot draw for land on Gitzel for intensification

Public Safety

- 2 Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) activations (level 1) in 2025 to date
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- Voyent Alert emergency notification system for early communication with residents

Public Works

- Integration of sorted cardboard into the compost operations
- On the ground landfill gas assessment
- Landfill cell 3 expansion

- 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.
- Research and Development Study on Pipe materials for private services and mains to improve the lifecycle of buried piped infrastructure



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