



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

# Could There Be a University in Yellowknife?

**A Yellowknife-Based University Could Have Big Implications for the City's Future.**

## What sort of social and economic benefits could a Northern university offer our city? What would it mean for residents? How can we ensure that it benefits everyone — not just Yellowknifers, but all NWT residents?



These are the kinds of questions being examined by a City committee — by the University/ Post-Secondary Advisory Committee, formed earlier this year, and a feasibility study commissioned by the City due to be released later this fall.

The City wants to find out what the benefits are for Yellowknife, and what it can do to help a successful post-secondary institution — one that works for everyone — become a reality. As the NWT looks to a more economically diverse future, the possibility of a thriving post-secondary educational institution here is one that the City must thoroughly explore. It's clear that changes are coming, and if there's a path to success for this project, we want to make sure we're on it.

### Part of an Economically Diverse Future



The potential of a university based in Yellowknife has huge implications for the City, and the NWT. Universities and similar

post-secondary institutions are — aside from their cultural and social benefits — major economic drivers for local economies. They attract millions of dollars in research funding, provide a wide range of employment opportunities, and attract students who boost the local economy directly. But it's important to keep some things clear as we investigate this opportunity:

#### 1 Opportunity for Investment

Many southern universities and institutions are seeking opportunities to invest in the North, and there are many partnership models and potential collaborations to be examined.

#### 2 Territorial Benefits

This is a project that, if successful, will help all of the territory's communities, by giving a university the conditions it needs to grow into a successful institution providing educational opportunities and economic impetus to everyone.

#### 3 City's Role

Though the City will do whatever it can to make a Yellowknife-based university a success, this is NOT a City of Yellowknife project, and will not see the City take on any major big-ticket investments.

### Circumpolar Universities

Around the North, there are many successful institutions to look at.

#### Tromsø University of Norway

Starting small in 1968, in a town roughly the same size as Yellowknife, it has since become a globally respected institution and research centre, attracting millions of dollars in research funding.

**16,476**  
**Students**  
**3,487**  
**Employees**



Photo: UJT flickr

#### University of Northern BC

Prince George's UNBC opened in 1994 and also has regional campuses in Prince Rupert, Terrace, Quesnel, and Fort St. John. It has estimated regional economic impact of over \$700 million annually.

**3,592**  
**Students**  
**1,200**  
**Employees**



Photo: UNBC Facebook

#### Yukon College

A 2016 socioeconomic report found that the college had generated a total of \$46 million in annual revenues. \$43.8 million of this was spent on personnel and the purchase of goods and services, generating a further estimated \$18.4 million in indirect and induced economic activity, for a total estimated economic output of \$62.2 million.

**1,190**  
**Students**  
**542**  
**equivalent full time jobs**



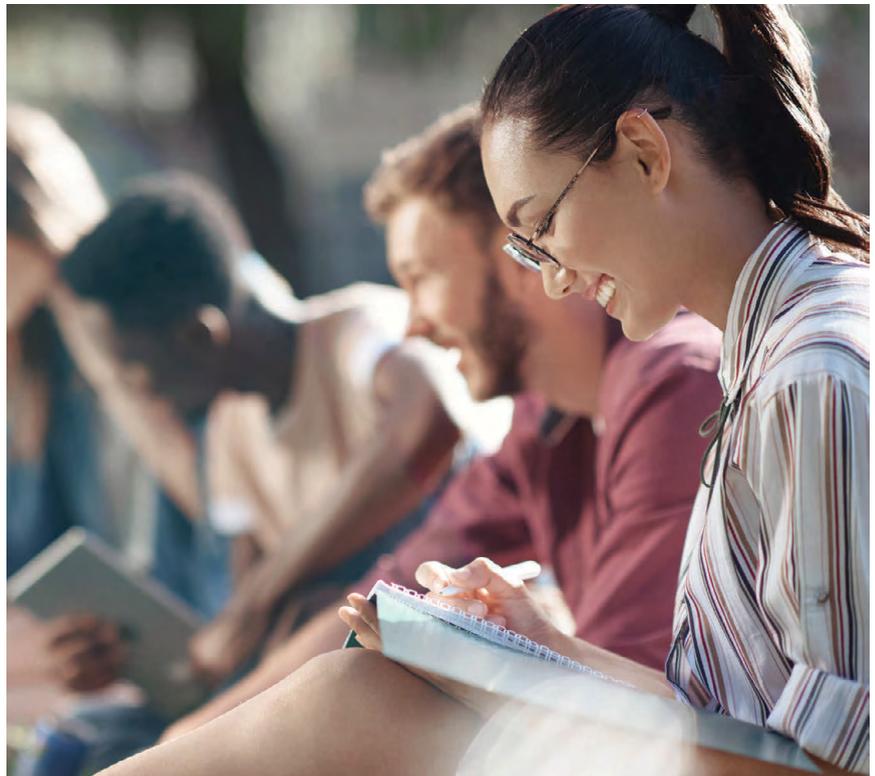
Photo: yukoncollege.yk.ca



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

## Universities: Agents of Change, Engines of Success

Universities aren't ivory towers. They're economic drivers. They can have both immediate and in the long term effects on their host cities and regions. And those effects are usually multiplied in smaller centres like Yellowknife.



### Universities boost regional economies in multiple ways.

#### 1 Job Creation

Most obviously, they create jobs — and not just academic jobs. Universities are staffed by a wide range of workers, with a wide range of skills. And that's just the direct employment — the presence of a sizable student population also creates indirect employment among the businesses that spring up to service them.

#### 2 Funding

They attract funding: with more and more southern institutions interested in Northern research topics

— from marine biology to climate studies to indigenous cultures — there's a lot of money looking for a home.

#### 3 Innovation

They drive innovation and entrepreneurship, and provide students with the skills needed to compete in national and global markets.

#### 4 Investment

They attract major investment in civic infrastructure: successful universities constantly

grow and build, and that can have a huge positive effect on the wider communities.

#### 5 Quality of Life

They improve lives: Aside from the many tangible and measurable impacts a post-secondary institution can have, a successful university in Yellowknife would have benefits for everyone in the NWT, increasing social mobility and economic opportunities for all.

(867) 920-5600  
communications@yellowknife.ca



If you'd like to know more, visit the city page on this topic at [www.yellowknife.ca/university](http://www.yellowknife.ca/university)