



**Pre-Budget Consultation Submission for Budget 2019
August 3, 2018**

Fostering competitiveness for Canadians

By: Karen Barnes, President and Vice-Chancellor – Yukon College

YukonU is poised to launch a \$65m capital campaign to become the first Canadian university north of 60°

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That the Government of Canada contribute to Yukon College's \$65m capital campaign with a contribution of **\$21.5m** towards new campus infrastructure.

Recommendation 2: That the Government of Canada increase competitiveness for Canadian innovation and research **in the North, by the North, for the North** with a specific focus on climate change, Indigenous self-determination and sustainable cold weather resource development by investing in YukonU.

Recommendation 3: That the Government of Canada increase competitiveness in the North by further investing in improved distance learning opportunities through stronger internet links between YukonU's 13 rural and remote campuses with each other and to distance-learning university partners.

Executive Summary

- **YukonU is launching a \$65m capital campaign and is requesting a \$21.5 million contribution from the Government of Canada to become Canada's first university north of 60°.**
- **YukonU is ready now, with governance and curriculum in place.**
- A federal investment in YukonU would enable the Government of Canada to fulfill commitments to Reconciliation, competitiveness, inclusive economic growth, responsible resource development, adapting to climate change, improving northern connectivity, fostering innovation and northern scientific research.
- YukonU will be a **hybrid university**, where students will be able to access made-in-the-North degrees, diplomas, certificates, trades and academic upgrading that will offer a pathway to higher education for northern learners who want to pursue education that is relevant to where they live.
- Yukon University's **Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Governance** aims to build public sector leadership and administrative capacity, particularly with respect to Indigenous governments. This degree was **developed in partnership with all fourteen Yukon First Nations** and the Government of Yukon to propel movement toward **Reconciliation**.
- YukonU will create positive economic impacts and improve competitiveness in the Yukon and in Canada by creating new jobs, new opportunities for Yukon's businesses, and building a strong northern-focused work force.
- More than **30% of the students** at Yukon College are Indigenous.
- **Learning where they live and work:** Northern students, First Nations governments, communities and businesses in the North want and need advanced education that is close to home to build a responsive, resilient and diverse economy and society, relevant to Northern Canada for today and tomorrow.
- A federal investment in YukonU would enable hundreds of northern students to complete degree programs, relevant to the North, beginning immediately. YukonU will produce graduates in line with northern Canada's workforce needs.
- **A federal investment in YukonU means shovels in the ground in 2019**, facilitating more students in the classroom by Fall 2020.

- The enhanced main campus in Whitehorse will include new learning, labs and research facilities.
- YukonU aligns with the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Canada's Arctic Policy Framework.

Introduction

Yukon College is on the cusp of becoming YukonU, Canada's first university north of 60°. After 50 years as Yukon College, YukonU is ready to offer degree programs, as well as diploma, certificate and skills training programs, in Northern Canada.

YukonU is launching a \$65m capital campaign and is seeking a **\$21.5m investment from the Government of Canada in Budget 2019** to build new facilities and research capabilities for a standalone, hybrid, degree-granting university. It is a unique opportunity for the federal government to work in partnership with First Nations to advance meaningful reconciliation and build a future where Indigenous peoples can succeed and prosper. Doing so will foster competitiveness in northern Canada, specifically in innovation in northern mining, cold climate, sustainable resource development, climate change and Indigenous governance.

Competitiveness in the North

In Yukon, most students have to travel from home to study. There is currently no made-in-the-north university degree programming. Northern Indigenous peoples and other northern residents need to be able to **learn where they live** and have better access to university programming and research that is relevant to the North, enabling them to acquire and apply the knowledge and skills that employers are seeking in a competitive and inclusive northern economy. Yukon U will create long-term benefits within the territory and across the Arctic, improving opportunities and competitiveness in Northern Canada while attracting students from across Canada and the world.

YukonU's areas of expertise

1. Indigenous Self-Determination and Governance
2. Climate Change Research – Society and Environment
3. Sustainable Resource Development and Innovation through the Centre for Northern Innovation and Mining (CNIM)

Federal funding + YukonU = Northern economic development

Total Annual Spending Impacts:

Estimated economic impacts of the new YukonU are as follows:

Short-run spending annual impact: Across the five years of construction spending, the transition will add, on average, \$3.3 million per year in total income, equivalent to supporting 69 jobs per year.

Operations spending annual impact: As a university, YukonU will increase its operational spending. By FY 2028, increased operations spending will add at least \$5.2 million in total income on an annual basis, equivalent to supporting 39 jobs per year.

Student spending annual impact: Approximately \$170,500 in total income will be added per year, or four jobs, from spending from those students in the territory.

Alumni annual impact: By FY 2028, YukonU alumni are estimated to add \$599,300 in total income to the economy per year, or 12 jobs. This annual impact is expected to increase every year for several years as YukonU continues to serve more students and they enter the workforce.

The transition from college to university creates long-term positive impacts on the Yukon economy that will keep Yukon competitive with the rest of Canada and the world, including new jobs for additional faculty and staff, and increases in day-to-day operational supply chain purchases from the territory's businesses. This provides a steady stream of long-run spending impacts year after year.

Building on 50 years of academic success: Yukon College to YukonU

Quick stats:

- 5,607 registered students, 4,417 in non-credit programs, 30% are Indigenous
- 13 campuses including a main campus in Whitehorse
- 97 full time and 27 contract faculty members
- 50 programs – partner degrees, Yukon College diplomas and certificates. Recognized for its excellence in research and innovation (cold climate, climate change and northern mining).

YukonU: A “hybrid” university

As the only post-secondary institution in the North that has been **designated as ready to grant degrees (by Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC))**, YukonU has its governance and academic programming in place and is ready to grant standalone degrees.

YukonU will be a “hybrid” university, where students will be able to access degrees, diplomas, certificates, trades and academic upgrading. YukonU will offer a pathway to higher education for northern learners who want to pursue education that is relevant to where they live and work. Students will have the opportunity to enter Yukon University at various entry points to pursue their academic objectives.

Made-in-Yukon degrees centred around the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's principles of Reconciliation and northern economic development

Approximately 30% of students at Yukon College are First Nations. Yukon University's **Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Governance** aims to build public sector leadership and administrative capacity, particularly with respect to Indigenous governments. The degree was **developed in partnership with all fourteen Yukon First Nations** and the Government of Yukon to propel movement toward **Reconciliation**.

The Government of Canada has made a commitment to Canada's Indigenous and northern peoples to advance Reconciliation. Investing in YukonU can help fulfill that commitment.

YukonU's first three degrees will be:

- Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Governance (first students Fall 2018 – first YukonU graduates, Spring 2020)
- Bachelor of Business Administration (Anticipated Fall 2019)
- Bachelor of Arts in Northern Studies (Anticipated Fall 2021)

Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Governance – Fall 2018

The first made-in-Yukon degree will set the new benchmark for Indigenous government workers. Yukon University's Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Governance will build public sector leadership and administrative capacity, particularly with respect to Indigenous governments.

The first students for this program begin this Fall 2018, with the first cohort of graduates slated for Spring 2020.

Yukon College's First Nations 101 curriculum

In 2014, all 14 Yukon First Nations (YFN) and three neighbouring First Nations, worked together to develop a curriculum for a First Nations 101 course. Today, the course is delivered online, and twice weekly in the classroom at Yukon College. The course is now mandated for many departments of the Yukon Government (Education, Social Services, Justice), RCMP and Deputy Ministers.

Transitioning from Yukon College to YukonU – A federal investment in infrastructure

A federal investment in YukonU means shovels in the ground and more students in the classroom by Fall 2020. An investment in greater connectivity means enhanced distance learning between our 13 campuses and other learning institutions.

New main campus infrastructure including:

- Knowledge Building for Science (classrooms, science research and teaching labs - wet lab, dry lab, technical lab and white room - administration)
- Gateway Building (wellness centre, gathering place, exhibits, cultural displays)
- A new Student Hub (welcome centre, admissions and Registrar's office, recreation, bookstore), celebrating the cultures of two First Nations on whose land YukonU resides
- Distance learning infrastructure to connect the 13 campuses, including 12 rural and remote campuses

Community benefits will include:

- hiring apprentices, Indigenous peoples, recent immigrants, veterans, young people, people with disabilities and women,
- Procurement of goods and services from local small- and medium-sized businesses or social enterprises.

A strategic federal government investment in northern competitiveness

A federal investment in YukonU would enable hundreds of northern students to complete degree programs, relevant to the Arctic and the North, beginning immediately. YukonU will produce graduates in line with northern Canada’s workforce needs. This investment would allow the federal government to demonstrate that it is fulfilling commitments to:

- Reconciliation with Canada’s Indigenous peoples
- Inclusive economic growth
- Enhancing competitiveness in northern Canada
- Responsible resource development
- Improving northern connectivity
- Adapting to climate change
- Fostering innovation
- Northern scientific research
- YukonU aligns with the recommendations of Canada’s Arctic Policy Framework.

Post-secondary education institutions in the North – A Comparative Analysis

	Yukon College	Aurora College	Nunavut College	Dechinta College for Research and Learning
Date established	1963 Status granted – 1983	1968 Status granted – 1981 (remains under the auspices of the territorial government)	1968 Status granted – 1999 (remains under the auspices of the territorial government)	2009
Student numbers*	5607 30% Indigenous	2915	1386	Not Available
Number of programs	50+	35	37	34 + university accredited courses
Number of partner degrees	6	2	2	0
Approval to grant degrees	Yes	No	No	No
External Quality Assurance System in place	Yes	No	No	No
University Governance System Established	Yes	No	No	No
Intake of First independent degree classes	September 2018	N/A	N/A	N/A

*2016-17 enrollment

Conclusion

Yukon U will greatly contribute to the economic productivity and growth of Yukon, provide much-needed infrastructure and research capacity for students in the North, real skills training for young people and further Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. YukonU as a northern hub for research and development will keep Canada competitive on the world stage. This is an innovative, shovel-worthy and shovel-ready project that will deliver important social innovation and long-term employment and skills training in Yukon.

We would welcome a visit to YukonU from the Finance Committee and would be delighted to host a northern consultation.

Sincerely,

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