

Yukon

at a glance







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Yukon at a Glance

Introduction

Yukon is larger than life with breathtaking wilderness, a wealth of opportunities, abundant natural resources and friendly welcoming people. It is home to a skilled and educated work force, modern infrastructure and endless options for outdoor activities year-round. Yukon is an excellent place to live, work and play — it is a way of life.



Key Yukon Facts

- Located in the Canadian Cordillera physiographic region
- A total land mass of 483,610 km² (about the size of Spain)
- It has 430 kilometers of shoreline along the Beaufort Sea, which is home to the historically significant Herschel Island
- As of December 2007, Yukon's population is 32,714 of which about three-quarters live in the capital city of Whitehorse
- All Yukon communities have access to a high-level of internet and broadband

Connected Highways and Ports

Yukon is situated between Alaska, Northwest Territories and British Columbia. It has more than 4,700 kilometres of all-weather roads that connect Yukon communities to Canadian and American neighbours.

Yukon has easy access to two ice-free ports in Skagway and Haines, Alaska and has the potential for a railway and an oil pipeline. In addition to bulk shipping, the Alaska Marine Highway System operates vehicle and passenger ferries via these ports and through the famous inside passage to Prince Rupert, British Columbia and Washington State.



Two of North America's most famous highways: the Alaska Highway and the Dempster Highway pass through Yukon. Officially opened in 1948, the Alaska Highway was built in 1942 in eight months and 12 days as a military road. The Dempster Highway is a 735 kilometre gravel road that winds through the Ogilvie and Richardson mountains and is the only public road in Canada that crosses the Arctic Circle and traverses the boreal forest plains to the Northwest Territories.



Air Travel

The Whitehorse International Airport has direct jet service that connects Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary on a regular basis. International air services are also available to Frankfurt, Germany during the peak tourist season from May through to September. Regional services are available to the Yukon destinations of Dawson City and Old Crow as well as Inuvik, Fort Simpson and Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories. There are also 10 community airports, with numerous airstrips in remote Yukon areas.

Yukon History



George W. Peckham/Tulane University, Yukon Paleontology
Yukon Government photo

Ice Age Yukon

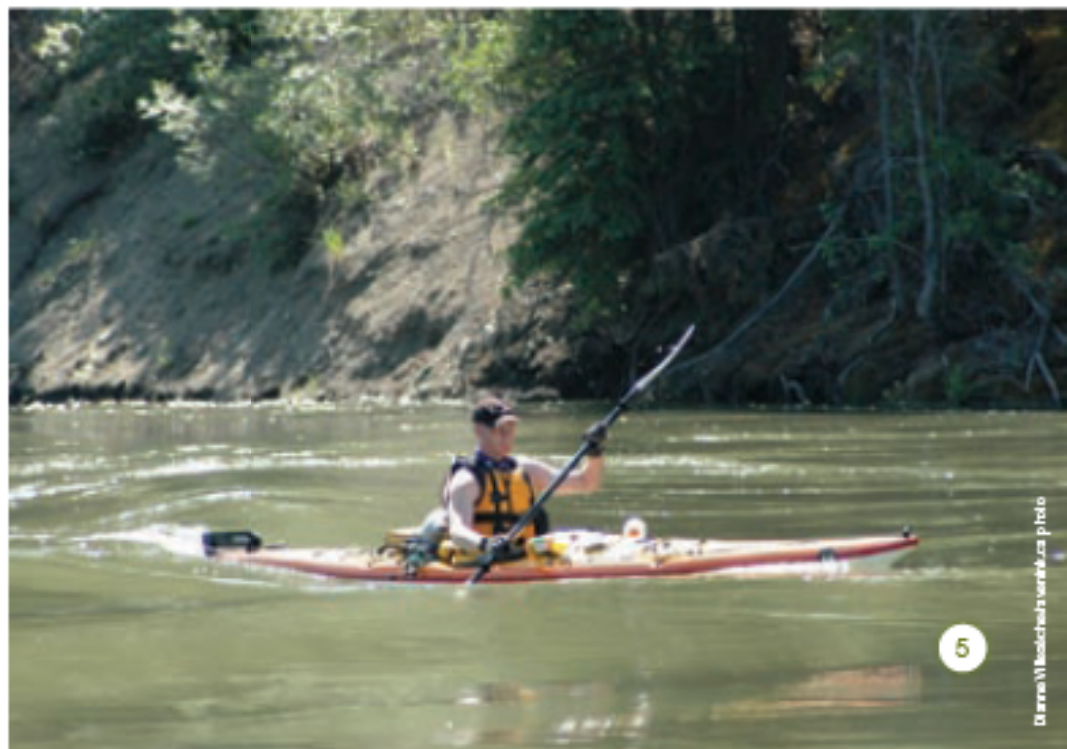
The Ice Age history of Yukon is unique in Canada. The massive Cordilleran ice sheet advanced over southern Yukon at least six times during the last 2.5 million years. This continental glacier eroded rocks and left behind debris and unique deposits. The earliest glacial advance changed the directional flow of the Yukon River while other glacial events diverted and dammed rivers, creating huge lakes.

Reduced global sea levels and the formation of the Bering land bridge linked Eurasia with North America. The towering St. Elias Mountains cut off precipitation bound for the interior and prevented ice sheets from forming in Beringia. Yukon's Ice Age was distinct in that west-central

and northern Yukon remained ice-free as part of the eastern area of Beringia. This ice-free refuge was a vast cold and grassland and home to woolly mammoths, horses and lions.

The ice ages and Beringia came to an end approximately 10,000 years ago. Global warming melted the glaciers and the water poured into the oceans. As sea levels rose, the Bering land bridge flooded. Extinction of many ice age mammals changed the face of Yukon forever.

The Yukon River is 3,700 km (2,300 mi) long and originally flowed south but after glacial diversion, it reversed direction and now flows northwest and west to Alaska and into the Bering Sea.



Denise W. Schuchman/veritas photo

Historical Timeline

1750 – 1890:

The height of trade between coastal Tlingit middlemen and interior Yukon people supplying furs to markets in Asia, Europe and North America.

1,200 years ago:

A massive volcanic eruption along the Yukon-Alaska border blankets much of southern Yukon with thick deposits of volcanic ash. First appearance of the bow and arrow in Yukon.

10,000 to approximately 5,000 years ago in the post-glacial period: Early occupants mainly hunt caribou with microlithic weapons at the end of spears propelled by throwing boards or atlatls.

About 10,000 to approximately 25,000 years ago: People cross the Bering land bridge from Asia near the end of the Pleistocene Ice Age. Yukon is home to the woolly mammoth, Yukon horse, steppe bison, scimitar cat and saiga antelope.

1825: Sir John Franklin begins searching for the Northwest Passage and maps the Arctic coastline from the mouth of the Mackenzie River to the Alaskan North Slope.

1846: Robert Campbell establishes Fort Selkirk, for the Hudson's Bay Company at the mouth of the Pelly River.

1852: Coastal Tlingit traders run the Hudson's Bay Company traders out, abandoning Fort Selkirk.

1867: The Dominion of Canada came into being July 1. Parliament outlines its conditions for accepting the Hudson's Bay Company land to the west of the old Upper and Lower Canadas. Russia sells Alaska to the United States.

1882: A party of prospectors crosses the Chilkoot Pass for the first time and prospects the Sixty mile and Forty mile rivers during the next year.

1883: American Lieutenant Frederick Schwatka creates the first modern survey of the Yukon River.





1886: More than 200 prospectors arrive in Yukon's Interior and establish a trading post at the mouth of the Stewart River. A strike of coarse gold on the Fortymile River draws attention away from other areas.

1887: A trading post is erected at the Fortymile River mouth and becomes the first gold rush town.

1888: Coal for Yukon use is mined near present-day Carmacks.

1889: Alaska whalers establish a winter base at Herschel Island in Yukon's Arctic waters.

1902: A winter road is built to link Dawson City and Whitehorse.

1906: The first silver ore is shipped from the Mayo region. Gold production falls in the Dawson City region.

1914: Silver King mine in the Mayo district ships out over 1,000 tons of ore.

1919: Keno Hill Mine is discovered and in production by the end of 1920.

1935: Martha Black runs for Parliament and wins after her elected husband, George Black, falls ill. She is the second Canadian woman to sit in the House of Commons.

1942–43: More than 10,000 American military and civilian personnel arrive to construct the Alaska Highway.

1895: Inspector Constantine of the North-West Mounted Police and 20 men are sent to uphold Canadian sovereignty and maintain law and order in Yukon. The police act as Dominion land agents, custom collectors, magistrates and represent all government departments.

1896: Skookum Jim, George Carmack and Dawson Charlie strike gold on Bonanza Creek in the Klondike River drainage. Word spreads and creates the world-famous 1898 Klondike Gold Rush.

1898: Ottawa passes the Yukon Territory Act to constitute Yukon as separate and distinct from the North-West Territories. Dawson City becomes the territorial capital city and is the largest Canadian city west of Winnipeg.

1900: White Pass & Yukon Route railway establishes the town of Chiseleigh (later called Whitehorse) and connects to Skagway, Alaska. Their steam-powered sternwheelers travel the Yukon River and its major tributaries carrying people, mail and supplies.



Yukon Archives, E.J. Manscher fonds (Marginal and Bell Houghton collection) 2002/016, 907

1953: Yukon's capital city moves south from Dawson City to Whitehorse.

1973: Elijah Smith and a delegation of Yukon First Nation chiefs travel to Ottawa with the document *Together Today for our Children Tomorrow* and begin working on Yukon land claims.



Tustin Targit, Chief of the Kwanlin Dena First Nation, celebrating the land claim agreement (May 1993).
Whitehorse Star photo

1993: A final version of the Umbrella Final Agreement was signed by the governments of Canada and Yukon, and Yukon First Nations as represented by the Council for Yukon Indians (now named Council of Yukon First Nations).

1995: The first Yukon First Nation Final (land claim) and Self-Government Agreements take effect.

2003: A new *Yukon Act* comes into effect April 1 and confirms the provisions of the Devolution Transfer Agreement. It gives the Government of Yukon direct control over a much wider variety of provincial-type programs, responsibilities and powers.

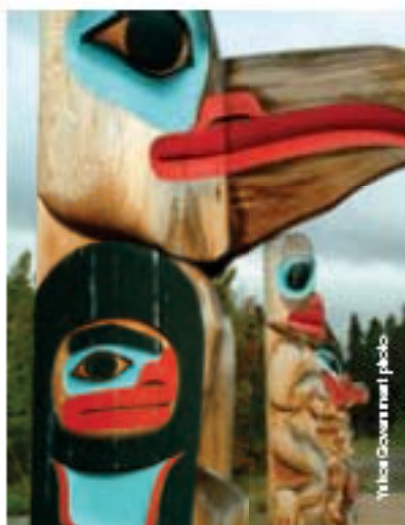


Yukon Culture

Yukon has a vibrant culture filled with rich northern tradition — First Nation customs and beliefs, an active Francophone community and the tales, artifacts and architecture of the Klondike Gold Rush.

There is plenty of time to enjoy this culture. It has been called the Land of the Midnight Sun; there are endless hours of sunlight during the warmer months and incredible aurora borealis, or Northern Lights, during the winter months.

Interpretive centres, Yukon First Nation cultural and heritage centres and museums are dedicated to reflecting Yukon culture through the preservation and interpretation of Yukon's unique northern heritage.



Culture is a way of life as demonstrated in beliefs, values, customs, behaviours and artifacts and is passed on from generation to generation. Culture is reflected through music, literature, painting, sculptures, storytelling, theatre and film.

Are you Wolf or Crow?

Some Yukon First Nations base their social structure on two *moieties* or kinship groups: Wolf and Crow. Kinship designation is matrilineal, inherited from mothers. Yet each moiety has its own history as to how its system was developed. The Tlingit people (Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Teslin Tlingit Council) also use the clan system in structuring their society and governments.

An individual's place in the community, their duties and their obligations to other society members is determined by the individual's membership in either the Wolf or Crow moiety. In the past, marriages between a Wolf and Crow were arranged to help strengthen the community as a whole. Sharing resources and helping each other were essential values that are still part of life today.



Language

First Nations' storytelling is based on legends about the creation of earth and the first peoples who inhabited the earth. These legends are an important part of Yukon First Nation culture and have been passed down from generation to generation. Yukon First Nations are working to preserve their eight aboriginal language groups.

Community-based language projects, including curriculum and programming for schools, adult literacy classes as well as radio and television programming are helping to preserve, develop and enhance Yukon aboriginal languages.

Yukon has a strong and active Francophone community with a multitude of available services. There is a French language school, day care facility, newspaper, employment centre, as well as immersion schools and adult language classes.



Yukon
First Nation
Languages



Beeding, a traditional First Nation art form, transforms utilitarian objects like hunting tools and garments into intricately decorated works that are as unique as individual fingerprints.

Arts

Yukon has a high concentration and diverse selection of artists and artisans. Its communities are home to performing, literary and visual artists who work in a variety of traditions and markets.

Visitors and Yukoners can participate in a myriad of festivals, visual arts and craft fairs, concerts, literary readings and theatre presentations. Yukon First Nation languages, stories and customs are also interpreted and expressed in film, storytelling, visual arts and crafts, theatre and dance.

The arts are fostered through funding programs, training, promotion and the management of several public art collections. The Yukon Permanent Art Collection is home to works by prominent Yukon and Canadian artists and serves as a reflection of Yukon's heritage and culture. The art collection is on display for public enjoyment and includes many pieces being rotated throughout various government buildings in Whitehorse and other Yukon communities.



Political History

Representation in the Parliament of Canada

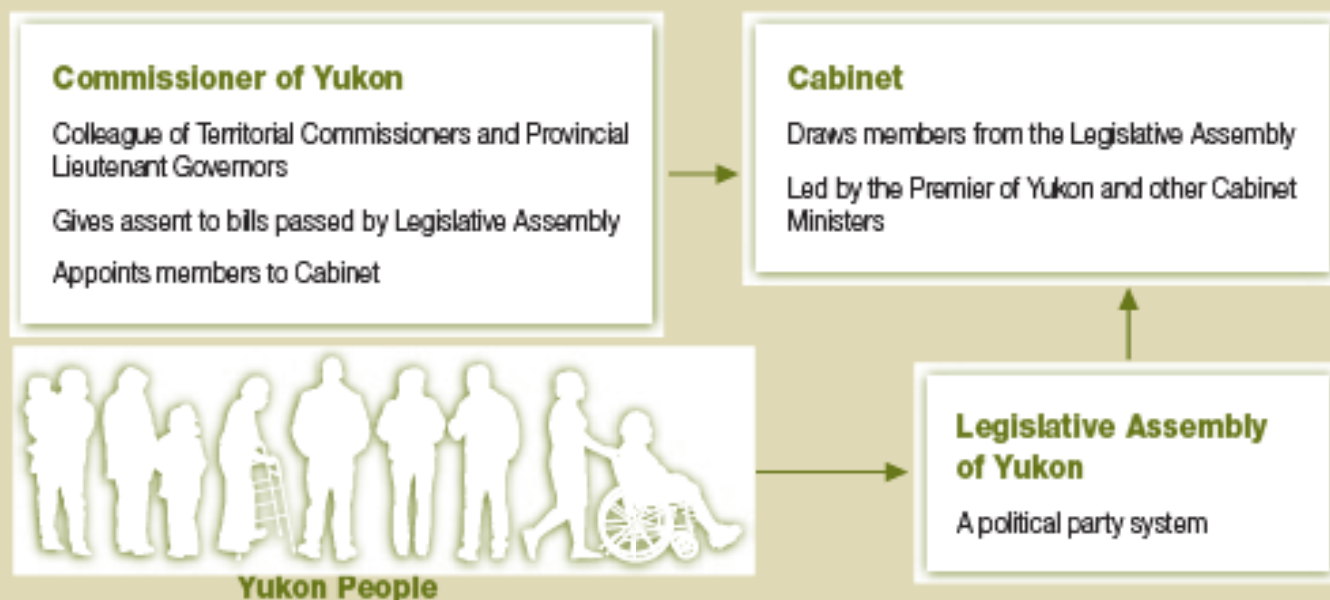
In 1902, Yukoners gained the right to elect one Member of Parliament to the House of Commons. In 1975, the Parliament of Canada amended the *British North America Act* to allow for the appointment of one Senator from Yukon. The Senator and Member of Parliament hold the Government of Canada to account, discussing national issues and representing Yukon residents' views.

Government and Legislative Assembly

At the peak of the Klondike Gold Rush in 1898, the Parliament of Canada passed the *Yukon Territory Act* and established Yukon as a separate geographical and political entity within the Canadian federation. This act established a Yukon government made up of a Commissioner and a territorial council of four, all appointed by the Government of Canada. By 1909 the territorial council was an entirely elected body of 10.

From 1898 to 1979 the Commissioner had the powers of both the head of government (Premier) and the head of state (Lieutenant Governor). The Commissioner is no longer the head of government, but is similar to a provincial lieutenant governor, granting assent to bills passed by the legislative assembly and representing Yukon at protocol-related functions inside and outside of the territory.

Over the years the Government of Yukon has grown as the Government of Canada transferred various governmental powers through a process called devolution. Today the Government of Yukon has many, but not all, the powers of a province. The number of members elected to the Yukon Legislative Assembly has also grown over the years and its procedures have become more sophisticated.





Devolution

Devolution is the process of transferring authority from one government to the other. Over the years, there have been a number of responsibilities devolved to the Government of Yukon, from the Government of Canada, the most recent being the transfer of land and resources.

The governments of Canada and Yukon spent several years negotiating this transfer and framework for change. In October 2001 the Devolution Transfer Agreement was finalized.

On April 1, 2003 a new *Yukon Act* came into effect, giving the Government of Yukon direct control over a greater variety of provincial-type programs, responsibilities and powers. These expanded authorities enabled Yukoners to have more say over their economic future and the ability to respond quickly and effectively to issues as they arose.

The Government of Yukon is now responsible for public lands and resource management over water, forestry and mineral resources.



Yukon First Nations Land Claims and Final Agreements

Yukon is at the forefront of land claim negotiations in Canada. As of 2008, eleven of the 14 Yukon First Nations have finalized their land claims and have Final and Self-Government Agreements in effect.

There were no historic treaties in effect between government and Yukon aboriginal people when Yukon First Nation people presented *Together Today For Our Children Tomorrow* to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1973 and initiated modern Yukon land claims negotiations.

Initially, these negotiations were a two-party process between Yukon First Nations and the Government of Canada, but the range of issues being addressed were such that the Government of Yukon had to become a third party to the process in order to ensure a comprehensive agreement.

The *Umbrella Final Agreement* (UFA) is a common template that was developed as a basis for negotiating Final Agreements with individual First Nations. The UFA was created in 1991 and a final version was signed in 1993 by the governments of Canada and Yukon, and Yukon First Nations as represented by the Council for Yukon Indians (now named Council of Yukon First Nations). Each First Nation Final Agreement contains UFA provisions along with provisions unique to that First Nation.

A First Nation Final Agreement is a treaty recognized under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and, in the event of a conflict, takes precedence over federal, territorial and municipal laws. A Final Agreement represents an exchange of undefined aboriginal rights for the rights set out or acknowledged in the agreement. A Final Agreement is essentially a modern-day treaty. It sets out specific rights for a First Nation government, its citizens and addresses:

- financial compensation;
- Settlement Land parcels;
- land use planning;
- special management areas;
- guaranteed involvement with various boards and committees;
- fish and wildlife;
- forestry;
- water;
- non-renewable resources;
- heritage resources; and
- a basis for negotiating Self-Government Agreement and a First Nation's law-making powers.

Each First Nation government is the legal owner of its Settlement Lands. Aboriginal rights continue on a First Nation's identified Settlement Lands (but not non-Settlement Lands). If aboriginal rights are inconsistent with a negotiated treaty right, then the treaty right prevails.

'Category A Settlement Land' means the First Nation government owns both surface and sub-surface (mines and minerals). 'Category B Settlement Land' means the First Nation government owns the surface and some elements of the sub-surface (e.g. gravel or sand). In the case of 'Category B Settlement Land', mines and minerals are retained by the Government of Yukon.

Each First Nation government with a Self-Government Agreement has exclusive law-making powers over its internal affairs and over the management of its citizens' Final Agreement rights.

It also has rights to make laws in respect of many aspects of its citizens' lives and the Settlement Land it owns. The extent of those law-making powers is set out in each Yukon First Nation Self-Government Agreement.





It should be noted that provisions allowing for access, taxation, development assessment, surface rights and many more aspects of land use are specifically set out in each Yukon First Nation's Final and Self-Government Agreements.

Yukon First Nation governments are working in partnership to strengthen their cultures by means of language preservation, economic development and capacity building in the areas of education, health and environment.

In accordance with the UFA, Yukon First Nations, the governments of Canada and Yukon have worked together to develop an integrated resource management approach to create a balance between economic development and environmental responsibility. The *Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Act* is a single environmental review process which applies to all land in Yukon and which enables multi-party feedback on various land-related applications.

Eleven Yukon First Nations have Final and Self-Government Agreements. The year in which each First Nation's agreements came into effect is noted:

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (1995)

Teslin Tlingit Council (1995)

First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun (1995)

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (1995)

Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation (1997)

Selkirk First Nation (1997)

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (1998)

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (2002)

Kluane First Nation (2004)

Kwanlin Dün First Nation (2005)

Carcross/Tagish First Nation (2006)

Three First Nations have not settled land claims and remain Indian Bands under the federal Indian Act: Liard First Nation, Ross River Dena Council and White River First Nation.



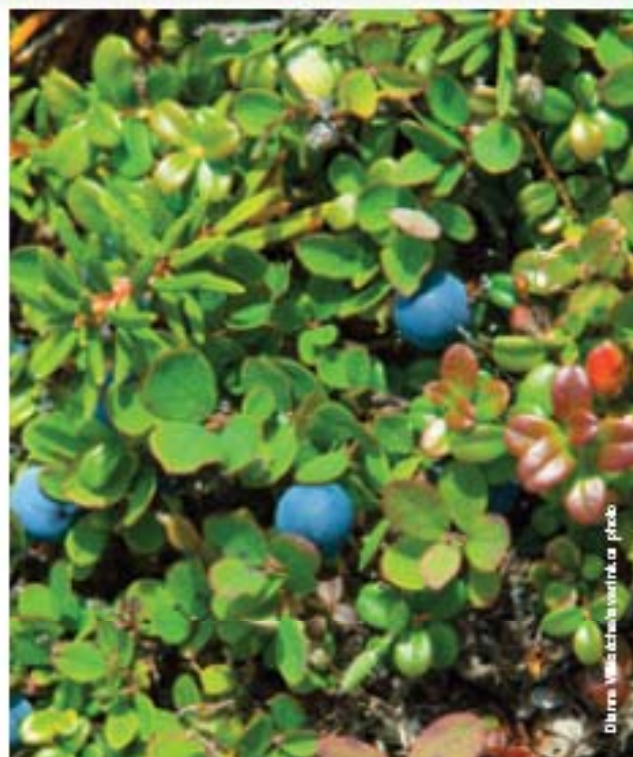


Flora and Fauna

Yukon harbours some of the last true wild space, unscarred by human development, with a diversity of wildlife. Thriving within this habitat are resilient, adventurous and hospitable people who value their connection to the land.

Yukon's vegetation is classified as sub-arctic and alpine. Boreal forests cover 57 per cent of the territory. There are more than 200 species of wildflowers, including the tall magenta fireweed.

Yukon is home to large mammals such as moose, caribou, Dall, Fannin and Stone sheep, grizzly and black bears, bison and wolf. It is also home to thousands of northern migratory birds such as Tundra and Trumpeter swans, ducks and geese that can be viewed when they stop along their journey to northern Yukon nesting grounds. Bald and golden eagles are common, while ptarmigan, grouse and at least 21 species of hawks and owls call Yukon home. Northern fish species such as arctic grayling, northern pike and lake trout are found in eddies and outflows of streams in lakes.



Wildlife Group (not including domestics)

Amphibians (i.e. frogs and toads).....	4
Fishes (not including salt water species).....	38
Mammals (not including humans).....	66
Birds.....	227
Butterflies.....	92
Large Moths.....	286
Dragonflies.....	40
Spiders.....	300+
Insects total species.....	6,000+
Mosses.....	400+
Vascular Plants (i.e. not including mosses, liverworts, hornworts or algae).....	1,242

Number of species in Yukon (known as of September 2007)



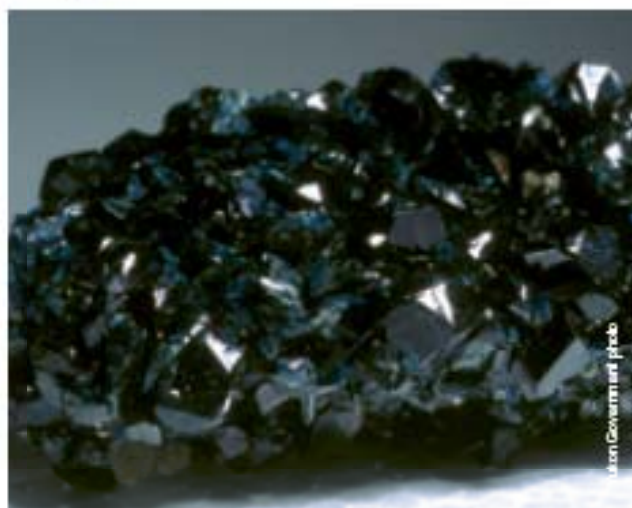


Emblems and Symbols

Official Gemstone

Lazulite – an azure-blue semi-precious gemstone – is a rare and beautiful phosphorous-based mineral. It is the only semi-precious gemstone found in any quantity in the territory and was proclaimed Yukon's official gemstone in February 1976. Its monetary value is based on its beauty and scarcity. As a cut stone it is relatively soft and can be scratched with a knife.

Well-formed crystals of lazulite occur in only a few places in the world. In Yukon, the gemstone is found in the layered sedimentary rock of the Blow River area in Ivvavik National Park, 32 kilometres south of the Beaufort Sea. The colour and crystalline qualities of Yukon's lazulite are among the finest in the world.



Yukon Government photo

Official Flower

Fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*) is a tall, hardy plant with bright magenta flowers. Throughout the Yukon summer, it is one of the most striking and colourful plants on the landscape and can be seen almost everywhere: along roadsides, river banks and clearings.

Fireweed is one of the first plants to appear in an area after a forest fire and exemplifies the resilience of nature. It was chosen as Yukon's floral emblem in 1957.

First Nations have traditionally used fireweed for many different purposes, as all parts of the plant are edible. The young sprouts of fireweed are often cooked and eaten as greens.



Dan W. MacIsaac photo



Yukon Tree

The subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), also known as balsam fir, was selected as Yukon's official tree in 2001.

The subalpine fir can range from six to 20 metres tall and is found in the regions south of Dawson City and east of Haines Junction. It usually grows at higher elevations. Its short, stiff branches slope downward, which allow it to withstand heavy loads of snow and ice in the high country.

The needles of subalpine fir produce a lemony-tasting tea, which is a traditional First Nations' cold remedy rich in vitamin C. Sap drawn from the blisters on its bark has been used by First Nation people as a traditional medicine for lung ailments. It is often used for campfires, by people hunting or hiking at tree line.



Official Bird

The raven is seen everywhere in Yukon and was adopted as the official bird in 1985.

The raven is the largest member of the crow family and has a body length of up to 70 centimetres. It is a very intelligent bird and is an opportunistic feeder that enjoys everything from carrion to groceries left in the back of pick-up trucks.

Raven is culturally significant to and is called 'Crow' by Yukon First Nation people. Many legends about Crow have been passed down from generation to generation. A familiar story describes how Crow brought the sun, moon and stars to the world.

According to the legend, an old Chief kept the sun, moon and stars hidden away in a box. Crow wanted them and tried many times to get them but without success. Then Crow noticed that the Chief's daughter went to the well every day to get water. Crow transformed himself into a pine needle, dropped into her water and was swallowed. The daughter became pregnant and in due time Crow was reborn as a grandson and had gained access to the house.

Crow became a favourite of the Chief who gave Crow anything he wanted. Crow whined and cried to the Chief to play with the box and its contents, but the Chief refused. After much whining, the Chief let Crow play with the box. He quickly rolled the box outside and broke it into pieces. Then Crow let out the stars, then the moon and then the sun.



Coat of Arms

The Yukon Coat of Arms is a red, blue, gold and white shield surmounted by a malamute (or husky) standing on a mound of snow.

Wavy vertical white and blue stripes represent the Yukon River and the gold-bearing creeks of the Klondike. Red spire-like forms represent the territory's mountains and the gold circles within symbolize mineral resources. At the top of the shield is a cross of St. George in recognition of the early British explorers and a "roundel in vair" as a symbol of the fur trade.

Yukon Tartan

The Yukon tartan is a non-traditional addition to the world's official tartans. The woven cloth is composed of green, dark blue, magenta, yellow and white stripes on a light blue background.

The crystalline blue background represents the sky, green symbolizes the territory's forests and dark blue represents the mountains. White symbolizes snow, yellow suggests Yukon gold and magenta is the colour of fireweed.

The Yukon tartan was designed by Janet Couture of Watson Lake and officially became the territorial tartan in 1984.



Yukon Flag

The Yukon flag has three vertical panels: a green panel on the inner edge, a central panel of white and a blue panel on the outer edge. The green symbolizes Yukon's forests, white signifies snow and the blue represents Yukon's rivers and lakes.

The Yukon Coat of Arms appears on the central panel framed by two stems of fireweed. Similar to the flag, green symbolizes the forests, white signifies snow and blue represents Yukon's rivers and lakes.

The Yukon flag is the product of a territory-wide design competition sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion Whitehorse branch as part of Canada's 1967 centennial year celebrations. Lynn Lambert submitted the winning design that was officially accepted as the territorial flag in 1968.



Economic Sectors

The Government of Yukon has established a strong economic climate. With substantial resources at hand, First Nation governments play a key role in the growth of Yukon's economy as investors in business and joint ventures.

Agriculture

Agriculture is a small but increasingly significant industry in Yukon. Its economic growth stems from produce sales and supply to local markets.

The total amount of land devoted to agriculture is approximately 12,500 hectares. Forty per cent of this land is cropland and another 20 per cent is under development for future agricultural use.

Most of the land used for agricultural purposes is located near the major communities. Seventy per cent of Yukon's farms are located within 100 kilometres of Whitehorse. Approximately half of the developed land is in crops, while the remainder is used for pasture or grazing.

The Takhini Valley agricultural area, west of Whitehorse, is the largest agricultural area. Significant agricultural areas are also found near Dawson City, Watson Lake and Mayo.

The Government of Yukon Agriculture branch offers a range of programs and services in support of this budding industry.



Energy

Energy is vital to everyday life. In Yukon, hydro has historically been the predominant energy source. Diesel combustion sources, as well as a small amount of wind energy also serve Yukon.

Yukon's coal resources are largely undeveloped. Similarly, oil and gas resource potential remains largely unexplored and undeveloped.

Yukon is a natural gas producing jurisdiction with three active natural gas wells in the Kotaneelee field but is not home to a natural gas processing facility. As a result, all energy derived from natural gas consumed in Yukon is imported from outside gas refineries.

Solar energy is used for space heating, hot water heating and generating electricity. Micro-scale wind and hydro installations are also used to produce electricity in remote locations. Biomass, in the form of cordwood and wood

chips/pellets, is used for space heating as is geothermal energy, which is also used to prevent municipal water systems from freezing. Renewable energy sources, however, are virtually untapped.

The Government of Yukon is exploring and planning alternative energy options. It is also seizing opportunities for more efficient energy production and conservation to further strengthen and diversify Yukon's economy.



Film and Sound

Yukon is home to a vibrant and exciting film industry that includes talented filmmakers and skilled crews.

Yukon has played both a leading role and a backdrop for many film productions, including major Hollywood pictures, documentaries, commercials and live animation series.

Yukon was always known for its beautiful locations and snowy, winter scenery. Now Yukon is gaining popularity around the world for its fresh, unique vistas and ample summer sunlight that allows for long shooting days.

Yukon's sound recording industry has award-winning and platinum recording artists. Musicians and artists from across Canada can also take advantage of excellent recording facilities in Yukon.



Yukon Government photo

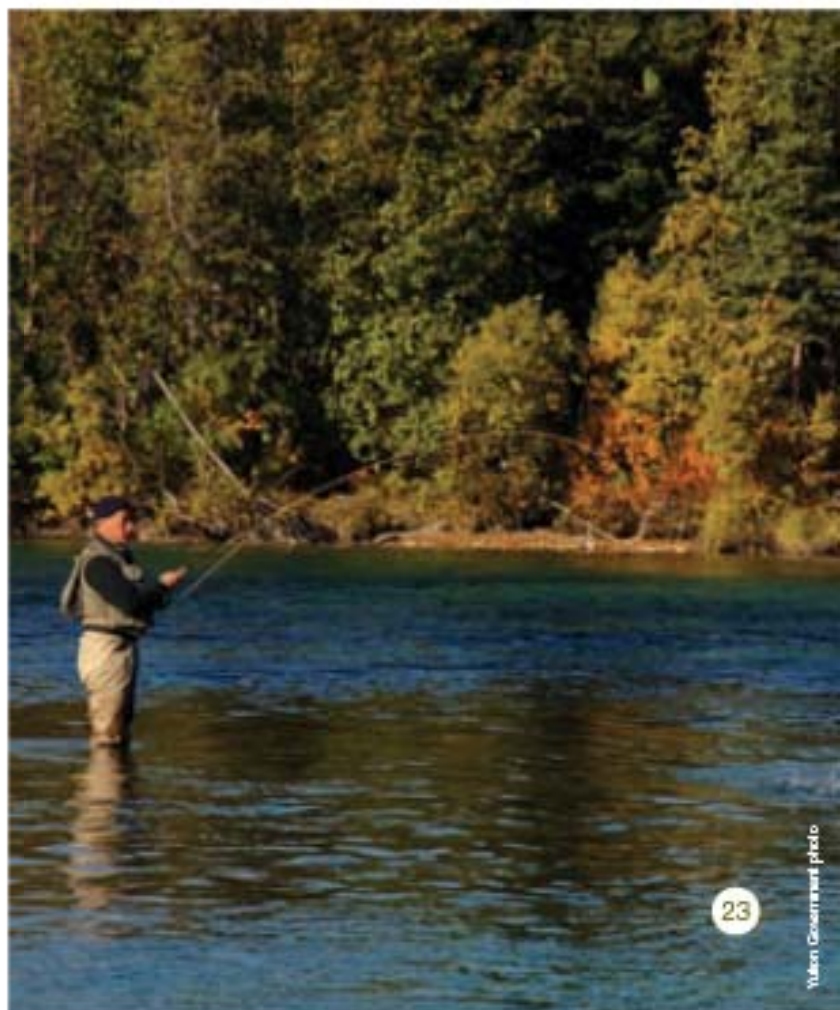
Fishing

Yukoners and visitors have long enjoyed fishing for both food supply and sport. Yukon is home to a variety of fish species including four species of whitefish, five species of salmon and nine different game fish.

First Nation subsistence fisheries still operate in several parts of Yukon and are an important part of many families' lives. Salmon and freshwater species are harvested with gill nets and then dried and smoked using traditional methods. Commercial fisheries harvest salmon, lake trout and whitefish for local sale.

There are 24 lakes that are stocked with rainbow trout, Arctic char, Kokanee salmon and Chinook salmon. By absorbing some of the angling pressure, stocked lakes are helping conserve slow-growing native fish such as lake trout.

The Whitehorse Rapids Fish Hatchery and Fishway were constructed to maintain the annual return of the world's longest migration of Chinook salmon. An exciting tourist site, the facility provides the general public with an opportunity to view migrating Chinook salmon and other freshwater species.



Yukon Government photo

Forestry

A substantial portion of Yukon is located south of the tree line with roughly 57 per cent or 270,000 km² of land covered by the boreal forest. Of that, 81,000 km² has tree cover that can support timber harvesting activities.

Yukon's forest industry is comprised of small operators who cut small volumes of timber for building materials, log homes and fuel wood. White spruce, black spruce, lodgepole pine, Alpine fir, aspen and balsam poplar are the most common tree species.

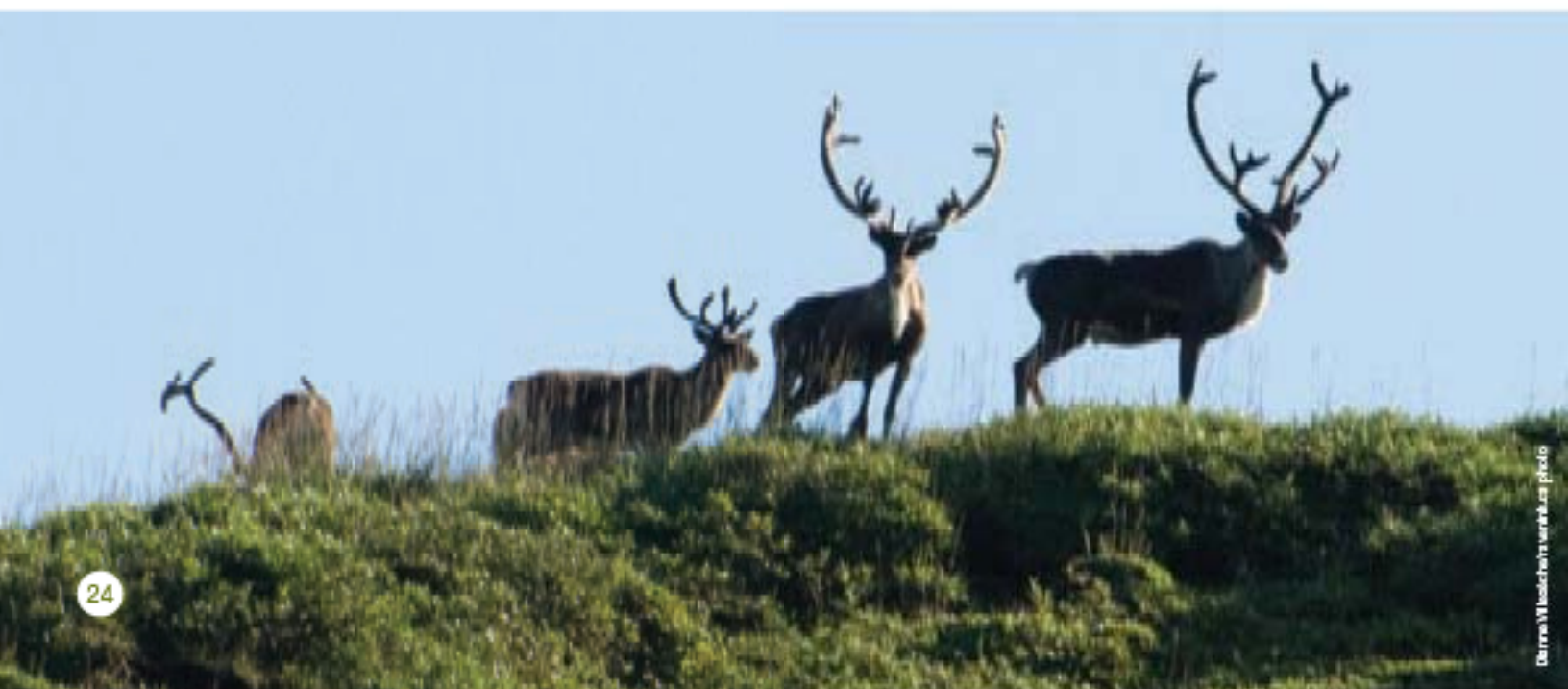
The Government of Yukon has made a commitment to manage the forest as a fully functioning forest ecosystem that benefits all living things, while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits for present and future generations.



Hunting

Hunting in Yukon is a common practice. People hunt for a variety of reasons: to put meat on the table, to be closer to nature or to bring home a trophy set of antlers. Hunting is deeply rooted in the social fabric of Yukon First Nation culture.

Guided hunting trips with non-resident hunters have been recorded since 1912. Many outfitters rotate their remote hunting locations which are usually only accessible by horses, airplanes and boats.





- There are an estimated 65,000 to 70,000 moose in Yukon, about two moose for every one person.
- The Porcupine caribou herd is the last migratory herd of barren ground caribou in the world. This herd travels more than 750 kilometers annually and crosses the international and territorial borders of Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.
- Mountain sheep consist of Dall and Fannin sheep and are found throughout many mountain ranges, extending north to the Arctic Ocean. They are most common in the southwest part of Yukon, in the St. Elias and Coast mountain ranges.
- There are 22 Woodland caribou herds with an estimated total of 30,000 in Yukon.
- Mountain goats are rare in Yukon, making their home in the southern portion of the Coast Mountains, and the Cassiar, Logan and Itsi mountain ranges.
- Black bear and grizzly bear range throughout Yukon. Black bear populations are estimated at 10,000 and grizzly bear populations are estimated at 6,000 to 7,000. Black bears range from the British Columbia-Yukon border to Yukon's northern tree line but are more numerous in the south and central portions of Yukon. Under Yukon law all female grizzlies with cubs, and all cubs, are protected from hunting.
- There are approximately 4,500 wolves throughout Yukon. Wolves are generally abundant where moose numbers are high.
- Between 1986 and 1992, 142 wood bison were released into the Aishihik area of Yukon as part of the national Wood Bison Recovery program. By 1999 the herd had grown to 500 animals.
- Yukon is also home to elk, mule deer, musk ox and cougar.





Mining and Exploration

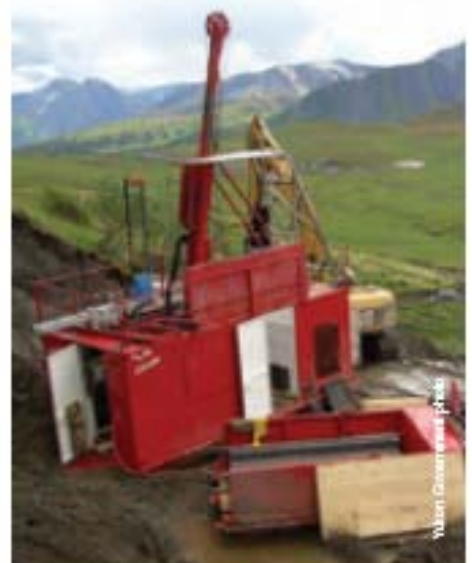
The Klondike Gold Rush of 1898 put Yukon on the world map. Today, Yukon's world-class mineral deposits support a developing mineral industry.

While gold mining remains an important economic sector, the focus has shifted to the large undeveloped deposits of lead/zinc, silver, tungsten, iron, molybdenum, nickel, copper and coal. These deposits include the second largest undeveloped iron ore deposit in the world and one of the world's largest undeveloped zinc-lead deposits.

Mineral resources have caught the attention of national and international investors. Not only does Yukon have an abundance of untapped mineral resources, but it also has the roads and transportation facilities to enable companies to ship minerals to market.

Increased demand for natural resources has stimulated investments in Yukon mineral exploration and in developing new mines.

The Yukon Geological Survey has developed and maintains a modern geoscience database of mineral deposits in Yukon. The Geological Survey staff carries out regional bedrock mapping projects, mineral assessments and geochemical, geophysical and environmental studies.





Tourism

Yukon is a destination of unparalleled scenic beauty. It is a land that provides larger than life outdoor experiences distinguished by its vast open spaces and its pristine wilderness. Yukon captivates visitors and residents alike. The summer midnight sun and the winter northern lights are just two of its larger than life natural phenomena.

The Yukon tourism industry is the largest private sector employer and impacts nearly all other economic sectors. The industry is grouped into eight sectors: accommodations; food and beverage; transportation; adventure tourism, wildlife viewing and recreation; events and conferences; travel trade; attractions; and tourism services. A large percentage of tourism businesses are sole proprietorships and are often seasonal operations. Aboriginal, cultural and adventure tourism are some of the most promising segments for future growth.

Yukon's tourism services are being actively and successfully promoted in domestic and international markets. Six visitor information centres provide travel advice to over 230,000 visitors annually. The Canadian Border Service Agency greets almost 300,000 people crossing into Yukon from Alaska, with over 80 per cent arriving between May and September.



Wildlife is intrinsic to Yukon. Wildlife viewing is a valued and sought-after experience for visitors and residents alike. Some communities, such as Faro and Keno City, have identified themselves as wildlife viewing hotspots, leading to the development of programs, events, infrastructure and partnerships that stimulate diverse economic benefits.



Trapping

The fur trade is the oldest industry in Yukon. It dates back to the early 1800s when the Coastal Tlingit, acting as middlemen for Russian traders, began trading with interior Athapaskans. By the mid to late-1800s, Yukon First Nation people were dealing directly with American and British traders.

Today the economic value of trapping is significant in Yukon and it is an important winter revenue source in many smaller communities.

Yukon is home to 14 species of furbearing mammals that are trapped for their fur: beaver, coyote, fisher, coloured fox, Arctic fox, lynx, marten, mink, muskrat, otter, squirrel, weasel, wolf and wolverine.

Trapping areas are assigned as registered trapping concessions, or parcels of land on which the holder is given exclusive rights to harvest furbearing animals. There are 333 registered trapping concessions. To date approximately 50 per cent of Yukon trappers are First Nations. This system encourages trappers to manage an area the way farmers manage their land and livestock, through monitoring of furbearer populations, their habitat and sustainable harvests.

