



Mineral Exploration and Development Framework

What We Heard Report

City of Whitehorse

June 2026

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1. Introduction

In early 2025, the City of Whitehorse began work on a project that would consider potential updates to the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw to clarify how mineral exploration and development are regulated within the municipal boundary. In summer 2025, the first round of engagement was undertaken. This included conversations with representatives from Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC), discussions with industry and environmental representatives, and a public survey. The focus of this early engagement was to gather general community insights and feelings on mining and its perceived impacts within the City.

Using this feedback and industry best practices, City staff created a draft Mineral Exploration and Development Framework to guide mining activity within the municipal boundary. A second round of engagement was completed in January and February 2026 to share the draft Framework and gather feedback before moving forward with updates to City bylaws. Specific engagement sessions included meetings with representatives from KDFN and TKC, discussions with industry and environmental representatives, a public survey, and two public open houses.

This What We Heard Report provides a summary of the feedback gathered through the second round of engagement.

GUIDING LEGISLATION

To provide context for how mineral exploration and development is regulated in Whitehorse, it is important to understand the legislative framework that applies at both the territorial and municipal levels. The *Yukon Quartz Mining Act* governs mineral exploration and development in the Yukon Territory and provides a framework for staking claims, permitting and regulations. The *Municipal Act* governs land use and surface activities associated with mineral exploration and development. The *Quartz Mining Act* and the *Municipal Act* both apply within the Whitehorse municipal boundaries and neither piece of legislation takes precedence.

Municipalities in the Yukon cannot restrict where mineral staking occurs but they can influence where and how mineral exploration and development happen through their planning and bylaw processes. The *Whitehorse 2040 Official Community Plan* provides land use and development guidance and indicates where and under which conditions mineral exploration and development are permitted. The Zoning Bylaw provides further regulations on land development and land uses within the municipal limits. Through the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw, the City of Whitehorse can guide land use, set conditions for activities and help ensure that mineral exploration and development progress in a manner consistent with local planning objectives and community values.

BACKGROUND

In 2012, an Order-in-Council (OIC) was put in place by the Government of Yukon that prohibits mineral staking in most of the City of Whitehorse. New mineral claims are allowed in limited areas outside of the OIC, mainly in the Copper Belt, along the western boundary of the municipality. Existing claims, whether within the OIC or not, are grandfathered and do not expire if they are kept

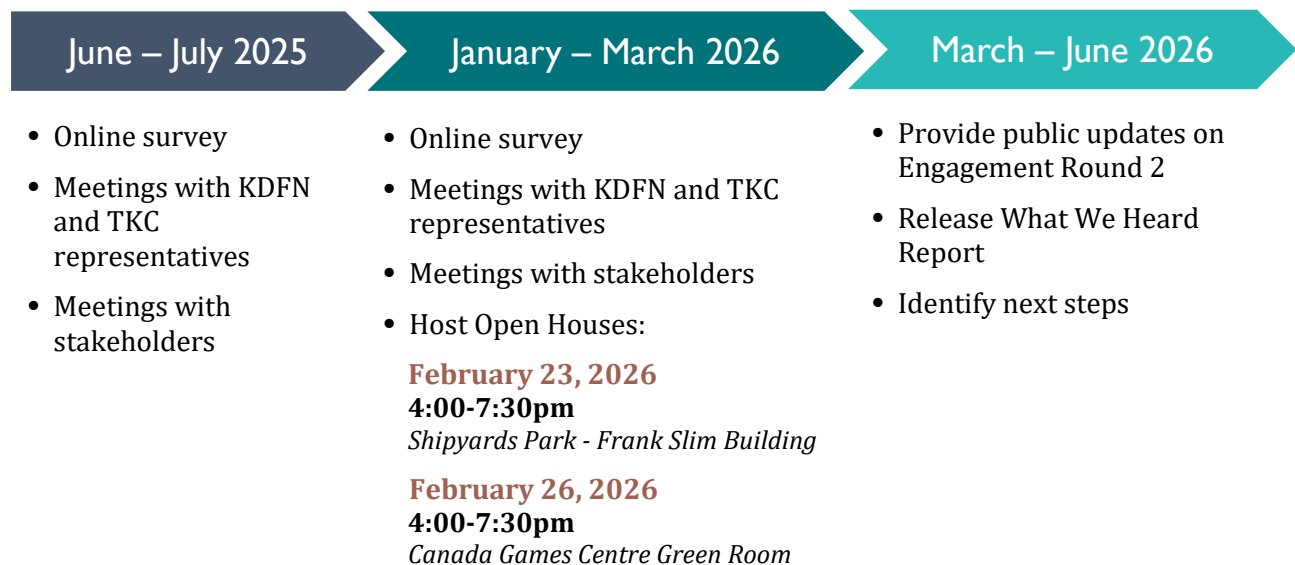
Engagement Round #2 What We Heard Report

in good standing. Since it was created, the timelines and details of this OIC have been revised several times.

In 2023, a resident submitted Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw (ZBL) amendment applications to prohibit mineral exploration and mining within the municipal boundary. The proposal went through Council and a public hearing, revealing strong and mixed community views. The City launched a review of local mining regulations and best practices from other jurisdictions. The draft Mineral Exploration and Development Framework was developed as a result, to add further structure to how the municipal planning processes may work to guide varying levels of mining activities within the municipal boundary.

On June 19, 2025, the Government of Yukon announced the establishment of the Chasàn Chùà (McIntyre Creek) Territorial Park, and all mineral staking is now prohibited within the park boundary.

PROJECT ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



2. Round 2 engagement process

The second round of engagement was carried out to provide an opportunity for open dialogue and help the City better understand diverse perspectives on this issue, and to gather detailed feedback on the draft Mineral Exploration and Development Framework. The City also took this opportunity to assess how well participants understood the purpose and application of the Framework and to identify any remaining concerns.

MEETINGS WITH KWANLIN DÜN FIRST NATION AND TA'AN KWÄCH'ÄN COUNCIL

During this round of engagement, two meetings were held, one with KDFN and one with TKC to gather information on the draft Framework and to identify any major concerns.

INTERESTED AND IMPACTED PARTIES MEETINGS

Two separate meetings were held with the mining industry and environmental organizations to gather further feedback on the draft Framework. A total of 12 industry professionals were in attendance at the two separate meetings.

- **February 9th, 2026** – 2:00pm – 3:00pm
 - Virtual and in-person
- **February 13th, 2026** – 2:00pm – 3:00pm
 - Virtual and in-person

OPEN HOUSES

Two community open houses were held to gather feedback and information on the draft Framework. The open houses hosted over 50 participants over the two sessions.

- **February 23rd, 2026** – 4:00pm – 7:30pm
 - *Shipyards Park – Frank Slim Building*
- **February 26th, 2026** – 4:00pm – 7:30pm
 - *Canada Games Centre – Green Room*

The open houses allowed residents to ask questions about how the Framework would be applied and to provide comments. The open house display boards were designed to provide project background information, explain why the project is happening, summarize key themes from round #1 engagement, and set out the draft Mineral Exploration and Development Framework. Three draft maps were produced to inform community members of the types of operations allowed in specific zones within the City. The display boards can be found in Appendix B of this document.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

As part of this engagement process, several written comments were sent to City staff directly via email. These were from mining related businesses and groups, as well as from interested residents.

PUBLIC SURVEY

The online survey, which ran from February 9 to March 9, 2026 and received 167 responses, collected input on participants' understanding of the Framework and thoughts about the Framework in general.

It included 16 questions related to mining and exploration, and was design to gather feedback on residents' general knowledge, buffer distance preferences, tier applications, public engagement expectations, areas of the draft Framework needing clarification, and perspectives on how mining and exploration should be managed within the municipal boundary. The survey was also available in paper form if requested. The survey questions can be found in Appendix A of this document.

3. Key themes and insights

This section of the report summarizes key themes gathered through input received from all sources, including during meetings with interested and impacted parties, the public open house sessions, the survey, and written submissions.

DIVERGENT VIEWS ON MINERAL EXPLORATION

Engagement revealed a clear divide in perspectives:

- Many residents favour prohibiting mineral exploration and development within municipal boundaries
- Others accept exploration only if subject to strong limits, large buffers, and close oversight
- Industry participants generally view exploration as temporary and low-impact, and expressed concern that the draft Framework would effectively prevent it

This tension reflects differing values related to land use, risk tolerance, and the role of the City in regulating mineral activities.

WATER PROTECTION AS A PRIMARY CONCERN

Protection of groundwater, wetlands, surface water, and drinking water emerged as the most consistent concern, particularly among residents and survey respondents. Many expressed low confidence in monitoring, compliance, and remediation based on past experience and emphasized that water protection should take precedence over exploration and development within the municipal boundary.

Priority areas

Participants emphasized the need to protect:

- Wetlands and watercourses
- Aquifers and groundwater recharge areas
- Private wells and drinking water sources

Many requested clearer definitions and guidance related to well capping, aquifer encounters, water withdrawals, and remediation expectations.

COMPLEXITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE FRAMEWORK

Many participants found the Framework, tier structure, and supporting materials difficult to understand. While some appreciated the intent to add structure, others felt the number of tiers, technical language, and mapping limited meaningful participation.

“Residents of Whitehorse should be able to live, work and play within the municipal boundaries without fear of exploration being undertaken in recreational areas and in their backyard.”

– Survey respondent

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Participants consistently called for:

- Simpler language and fewer technical terms
- Clearer visuals and more intuitive and informative maps
- Plain-language explanations of how decisions are made and how the Framework would be applied in practice

Need for clearer justification

Participants asked for clearer explanation of the evidence, sources, and reasoning behind specific requirements, including drilling practices, backfilling expectations, and radon-related provisions.

Value of technical expertise

Some participants encouraged the City to involve a broader range of industry and technical professionals to help refine standards and implementation details, particularly where requirements differ from current practice.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK

Many participants shared comments about how the Framework would be implemented.

Operational expectations

Suggestions for operations included:

- Limits on overnight work near residential areas
- Clear setback standards near sensitive features
- Seasonal noise considerations
- Consistent site restoration practices, such as drillhole capping and replanting

Cumulative effects

Some participants raised concerns about cumulative and long-term impacts, particularly if higher-tier activities are permitted over time, and asked how these effects would be tracked and addressed. It was noted that this is particularly important in the absence of a clear policy tool for cumulative effects assessment.

Integration with planning tools

Participants requested clearer explanation of how the Framework works alongside the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw, and when KDFN and TKC review is required.

Perceived versus actual impacts

Some felt the draft Framework and engagement materials did not accurately reflect current industry practices. Examples included:

- Use of images that did not reflect typical equipment

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- Restricting activity to winter months rather than allowing work during snow-covered conditions

Alignment of tiers with real-world practice

Across engagement streams, participants questioned whether the tier system reflects how exploration and development occur in practice. Common concerns included:

- Limited distinction between lower tiers
- Unclear progression between tiers
- Perception that allowing low-tier activity signals future approval of mining
- Misalignment with existing Yukon exploration classes

Many suggested fewer tiers or closer alignment with territorial systems.

Modern exploration and reclamation practices

Participants noted that exploration methods and reclamation practices have evolved, with temporary access and pads often restored quickly. They suggested these practices be more clearly reflected in lower-impact tiers.

Buffers and mitigation

Views on buffers varied. Some noted proposed setbacks, such as the 200-metre watercourse buffer, were more restrictive than current Yukon practice. Others supported larger buffers near homes due to concerns about noise and water quality. Several participants suggested focusing on site-specific mitigation rather than uniform exclusions.

Sequencing and feasibility

Participants identified a procedural challenge where drilling or subsurface work may be needed to inform rezoning decisions, yet the Framework limits that work before rezoning occurs.

Tier thresholds and progression

Some viewed Tier four and Tier five triggers as occurring earlier than warranted by on-the-ground impacts. Others felt the differences between Tier one through Tier four were minimal and could be better aligned with territorial exploration classes.

PRESCRIPTIVE VERSUS FLEXIBLE APPROACHES

Residents generally supported clear, prescriptive limits, including defined buffers, duration limits, and approved methods. In contrast, industry and technical respondents advocated for outcome-based standards that consider site conditions, existing disturbance, seasonality, and

“...A realistic criterion would be to set the physical conditions when certain types of work is allowed or not, instead of setting dates. The type of ground cover could also be considered, whether it’s vegetated or not, etc.”

– *Email submission*

current practices. This highlights a core tension between certainty and flexibility in the Framework's design.

PERCEIVED DUPLICATION OF EXISTING REGULATION

Industry representatives, technical professionals, and some survey respondents felt the Framework duplicates or exceeds existing territorial regulation without clear added value. Others felt municipal controls are necessary due to perceived gaps in territorial oversight.

Overlap with territorial systems

Some participants felt the Framework addresses issues already managed through federal or territorial processes, which may create confusion or redundancy.

Need for clearer purpose

Participants asked for a clearer explanation of the role and value of municipal involvement, and how the Framework differs from or complements existing regulatory systems.

Alignment with broader policy direction

Participants asked that the Framework align with territorial and federal legislation, including critical minerals policy, and remain adaptable to future regulatory changes.

LEGAL UNCERTAINTY AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Some participants raised concerns about the legal relationship between Yukon's mineral rights regime and municipal land use controls. From this perspective, limits that significantly constrain the use of existing claims raise questions about jurisdiction, potential legal conflict, and compensation risk.

These participants emphasized that environmental regulation and impact assessment should remain evidence-based and aligned with established territorial processes, rather than driven primarily by public opposition to mining.

Managing overlapping jurisdictions

Participants noted that municipal, territorial, and First Nation authorities intersect within the municipal boundary and asked for clearer process flows, roles, and decision-making parameters.

TRUST, ENFORCEMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Many participants expressed skepticism about whether rules would be followed or enforced. Confidence in the Framework was closely tied to confidence in enforcement and long-term accountability.

Common requests included:

- Clear inspection authority and enforcement roles

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- Meaningful penalties and financial securities
- Public reporting on compliance and outcomes

FIRST NATIONS RIGHTS, KNOWLEDGE, AND PARTICIPATION

During engagement meetings, Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC) representatives emphasized jurisdiction over Settlement Lands, the importance of heritage protection, and the need for early and meaningful involvement in application review.

Recognition of jurisdiction and governance

During meetings with KDFN and TKC, representatives raised questions about how the Framework applies to Category A and Category B Settlement Lands, and emphasized their authority over land use and subsurface rights under self-government agreements.

Protection of heritage resources

Stewardship of cultural and heritage values was identified as a priority, with emphasis on using First Nations knowledge to identify heritage assets, particularly in undeveloped areas.

Early and meaningful involvement

Some representatives from KDFN and TKC expressed interest in being involved in reviewing mineral exploration applications, including low-tier activities, to support informed decision-making and oversight.

Accurate and complete mapping

Participants asked for mapping that clearly shows Settlement Lands and areas such as Chasàn Chùà (McIntyre Creek), noting that incomplete or inaccurate mapping could lead to misunderstanding or unintended impacts.

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS AND DESIGN

Engagement breadth and influence

Some participants questioned whether survey results were sufficiently representative to inform the draft Framework. Others noted that written submissions were not clearly reflected and suggested revisiting the input dataset.

Opportunities for continued dialogue

Participants asked for additional opportunities to engage, particularly those directly affected, and for clearer pathways to influence revisions before the Framework advances.

Use of qualitative input

Several participants suggested pairing survey results with qualitative submissions to better reflect technical knowledge and lived experience.

MAPPING AND SPATIAL CERTAINTY

Participants asked for clearer, more accurate maps showing where activities may or may not occur. There is a strong desire for spatial certainty to support transparency, informed participation, and realistic expectations for both residents and proponents.

Access to spatial information

Requests included:

- City-wide tier maps
- Inclusion of Settlement Lands, parks, buffers, and underlying zones
- Integration with the City's GIS
- A plain-language guide explaining where activities may occur and how decisions are made

4. Industry-specific feedback

The concerns raised by mining industry representatives are reflected throughout **Section 3 Key themes and insights**; this section does not repeat those themes. Instead, it highlights which themes were of particular importance from an industry perspective and how they were framed by industry respondents.

Overall, industry representatives emphasized the need for a framework that supports clear, impact-based management of mineral exploration, aligns with established regulatory systems, and reflects how exploration is carried out in practice.

KEY THEMES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO MINING INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

Alignment of tiers with real-world practice

Industry respondents consistently raised concerns that the tier structure does not reflect how exploration progresses on the ground, particularly at early stages. They emphasized the need for thresholds based on physical disturbance and risk, rather than time-based triggers.

Prescriptive versus flexible approaches

Respondents advocated for outcome-based standards that allow mitigation to respond to site conditions, existing disturbance, and modern exploration methods, rather than fixed limits and uniform exclusions.

Perceived duplication of existing regulation

Industry representatives questioned the added value of municipal controls where similar matters are addressed through territorial processes, and asked for clearer articulation of how the Framework complements Yukon regulation.

Legal uncertainty and recognition of mineral rights

Participants expressed concern about how the Framework interacts with existing mineral tenure and privately held surface and subsurface rights, particularly where land use controls could limit access without clear pathways or compensation considerations.

Setbacks, buffers, and access constraints

Industry respondents viewed proposed buffers, especially near watercourses, as potentially limiting access to mineral-prospective lands regardless of site-specific conditions or mitigation measures.

“We hope the City will refine and modify the draft policy to avoid unnecessarily discouraging mineral exploration and mining. It would be beneficial to have industry expertise in technical working groups as the proposed policy is refined.”
– *Yukon Prospectors Association*

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Clarity, certainty, and discretion

Respondents highlighted the need for clearer definitions, predictable decision pathways, and reduced reliance on discretionary approvals to support planning, sequencing of work, and investment decisions.

Technical foundation and engagement timing

Industry participants emphasized the importance of early involvement by industry, territorial regulators, and technical professionals to support evidence-based standards and practical implementation.

5. Online survey results

The issues raised through the online survey are reflected throughout **Section 3 Key themes and insights**; this section does not repeat those findings. Instead, it identifies the themes that survey respondents emphasized most strongly, based on the overall distribution of responses.

Survey input reflects a broad cross-section of public perspectives and highlights priorities related to clarity, protection, and transparency.

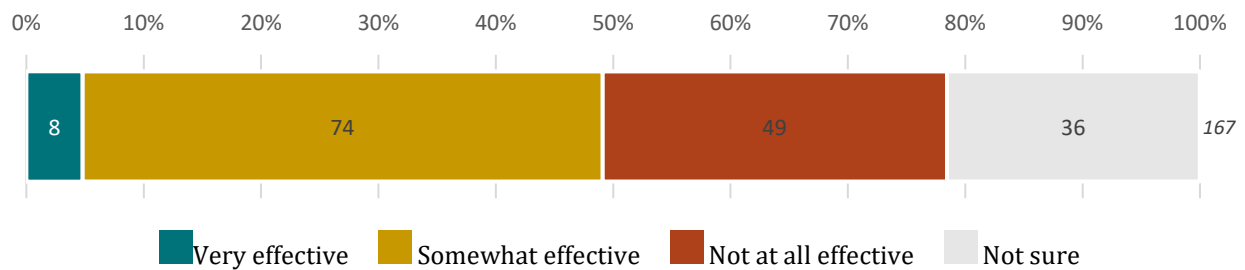
TOP ISSUES

Survey respondents placed particular emphasis on the following themes, as described in **Section 3 Key themes and insight**:

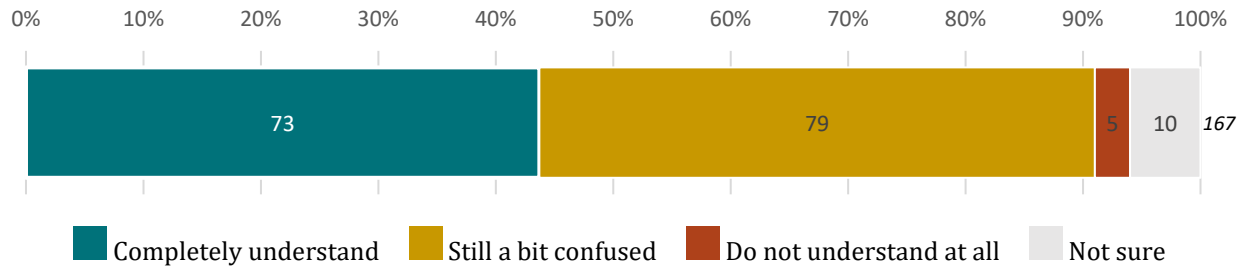
- Clarity of roles and decision-making
- Support for municipal involvement, with emphasis on precaution
- Need for clearer rules, definitions, and thresholds
- Understanding and usability of the tiered framework
- Support for public notice and engagement
- Environmental protection and buffers
- Mapping and accessibility of information

SURVEY RESPONSES BY QUESTION

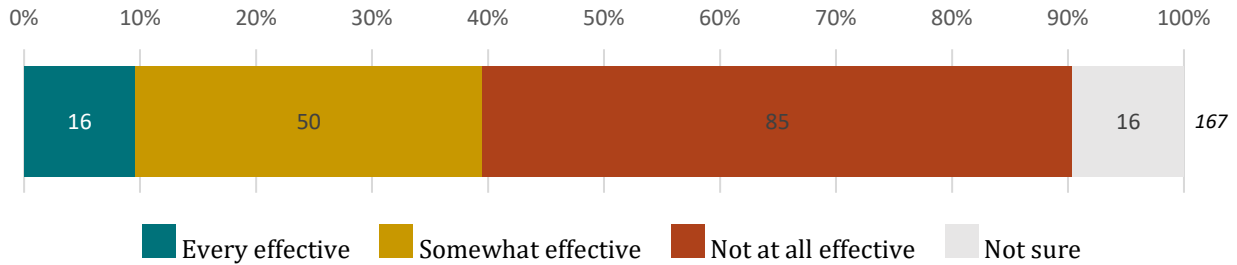
Q1. So far, how effective do you think this engagement process has been in gathering the feedback needed to inform Council about a decision on this topic?



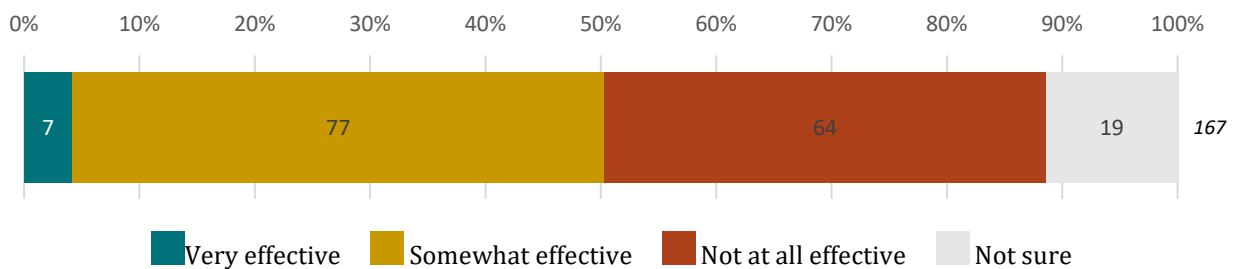
Q2. How well do you understand the role and authority of the City of Whitehorse in regulating mineral exploration and mining in the city?



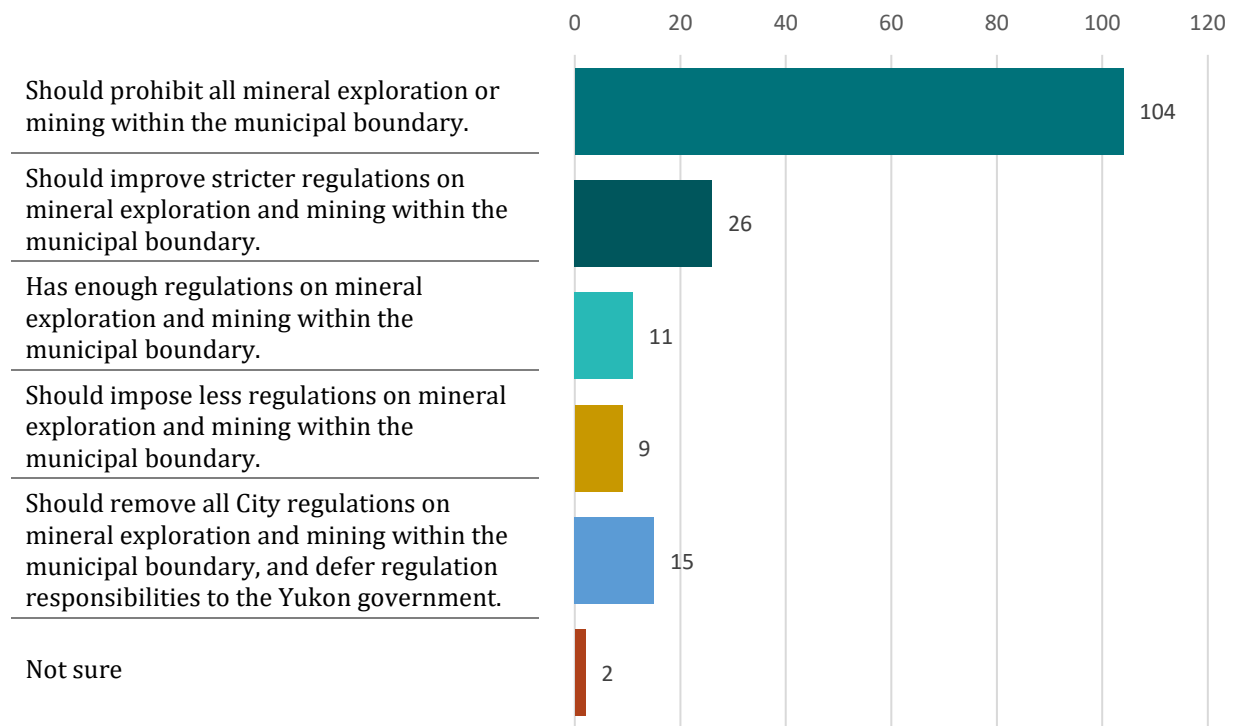
Q3. How would you describe the Government of Yukon's mining legislation when it comes to regulating mineral exploration within municipal boundaries?



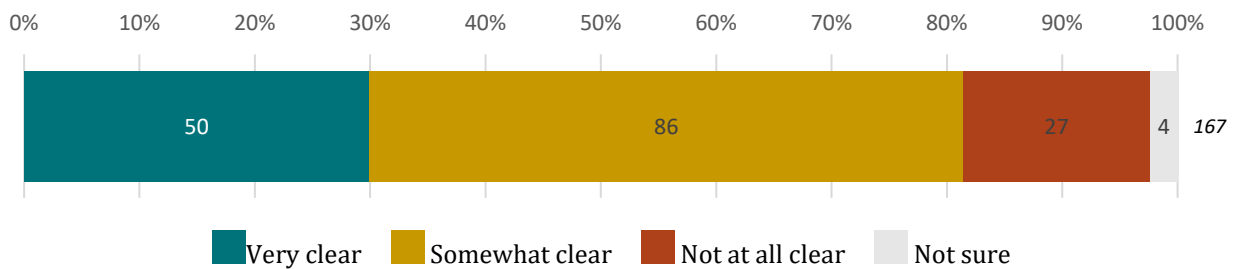
Q4 How would you describe the City of Whitehorse's Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw when it comes to regulating mineral exploration within municipal boundaries?



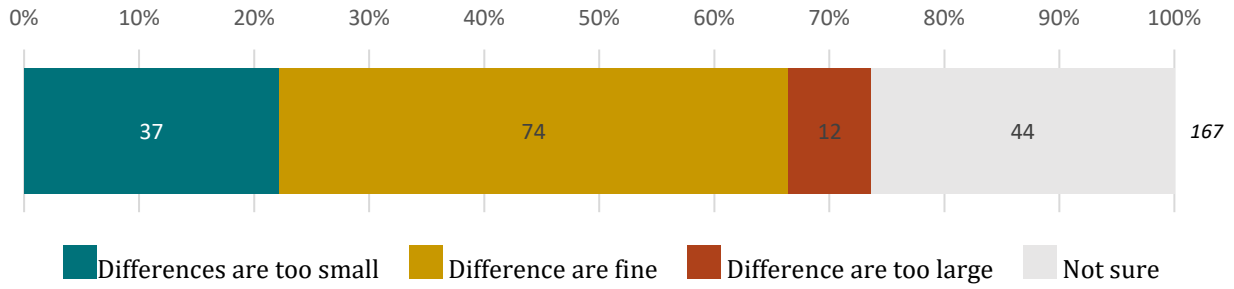
Q5. Which of the following statements do you most agree with? I think the City...



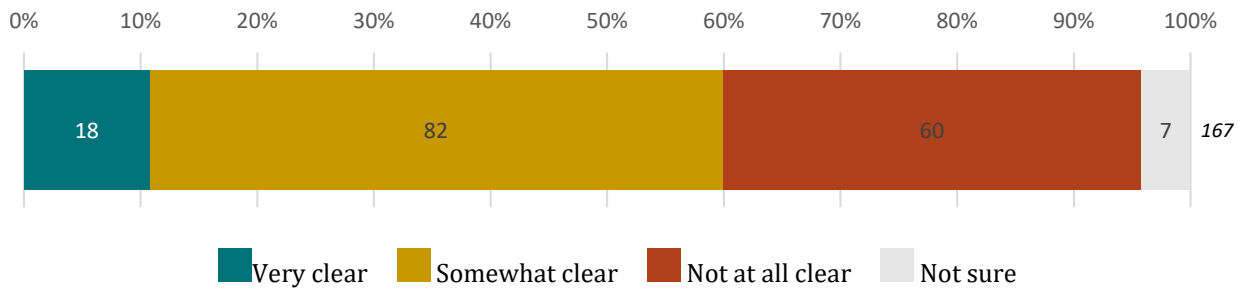
Q6. How clear do you think the tiered Framework (Tier 1-5) is in explaining the increasing levels of impact and required oversight necessary for different types of mineral exploration and mining activities in municipal limits?



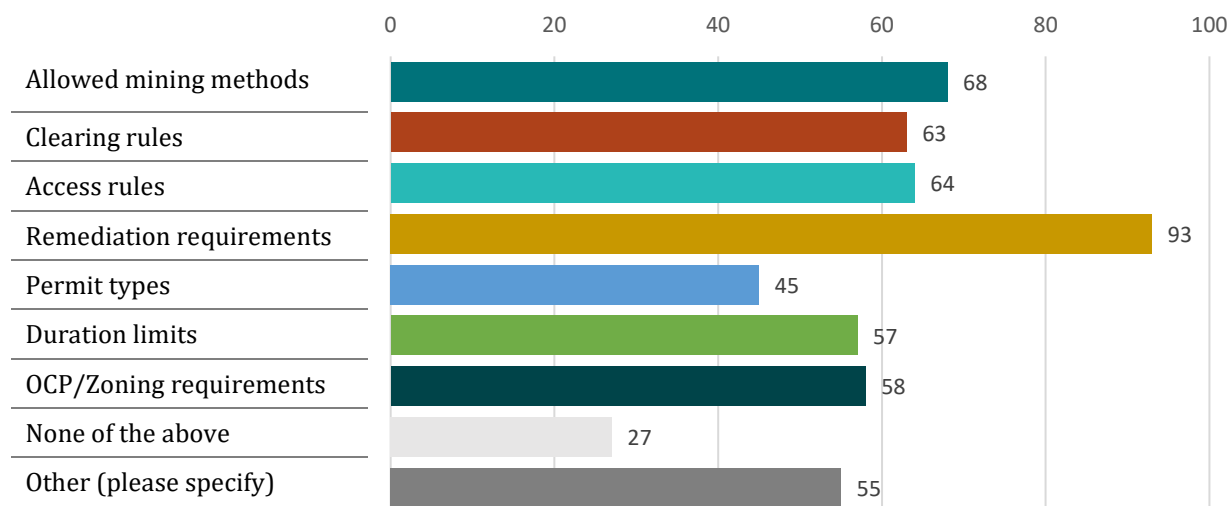
Q7. Do you think the differences between each of the Tiers are meaningful enough?



Q8. How clear do you think the Framework is in explaining how impacts from mineral exploration and mining would be managed and mitigated within municipal limits?



Q9. Are there any parts of the Framework that you think need more clarification? Please check all that apply.

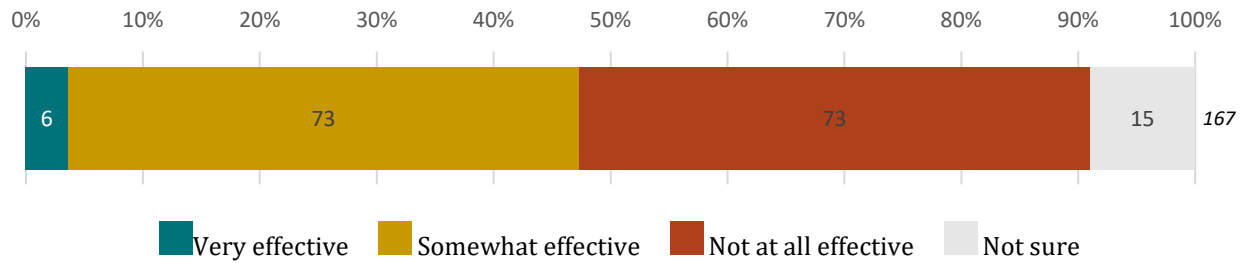


Key themes mentioned in “Other” comments

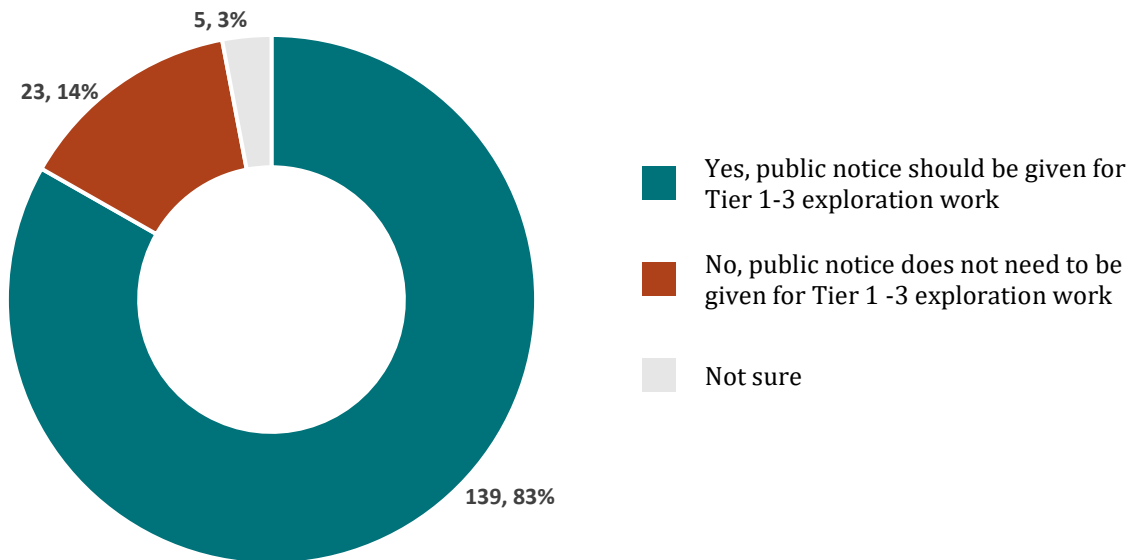
Full comments are included in Appendix B.

- **Environmental protection and climate considerations**
Strong focus on protecting groundwater and drinking water, clear setbacks near homes and sensitive areas, and better controls on noise and pollution. Some respondents noted the absence of explicit climate and greenhouse gas considerations.
- **Monitoring, enforcement, and accountability**
Low confidence in compliance and cleanup, with calls for stronger inspection authority, meaningful penalties, financial securities, and transparent public reporting.
- **Remediation, reclamation, and community risk**
Concerns about unclear remediation standards, particularly for access routes and trails, and uncertainty about how environmental damage or property impacts would be addressed.
- **Opposition to mineral exploration within the city**
Some respondents opposed any exploration or mining within municipal boundaries, citing community values, land-use compatibility, and skepticism about oversight.
- **Tiered framework clarity and decision-making**
Feedback highlighted confusion about the number of tiers, how activities move between tiers, and whether lower-tier approvals signal support for future mine development.
- **Jurisdiction, alignment, and land-use certainty**
Comments raised concerns about overlap with Yukon regulation, municipal authority, and the need for clearer land-use direction, outcome-based standards, and coordination with Yukon First Nations.

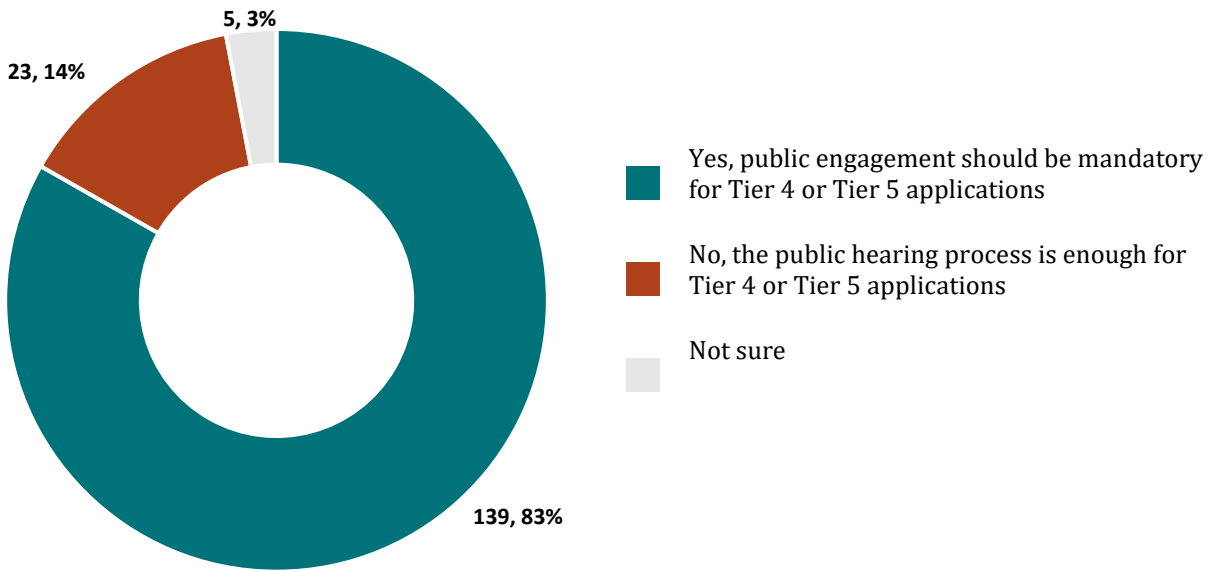
Q10. How effective do you think this Framework will be as a tool to help the City balance the community's vision, values, and priorities as they related to mineral exploration and mining in Whitehorse?



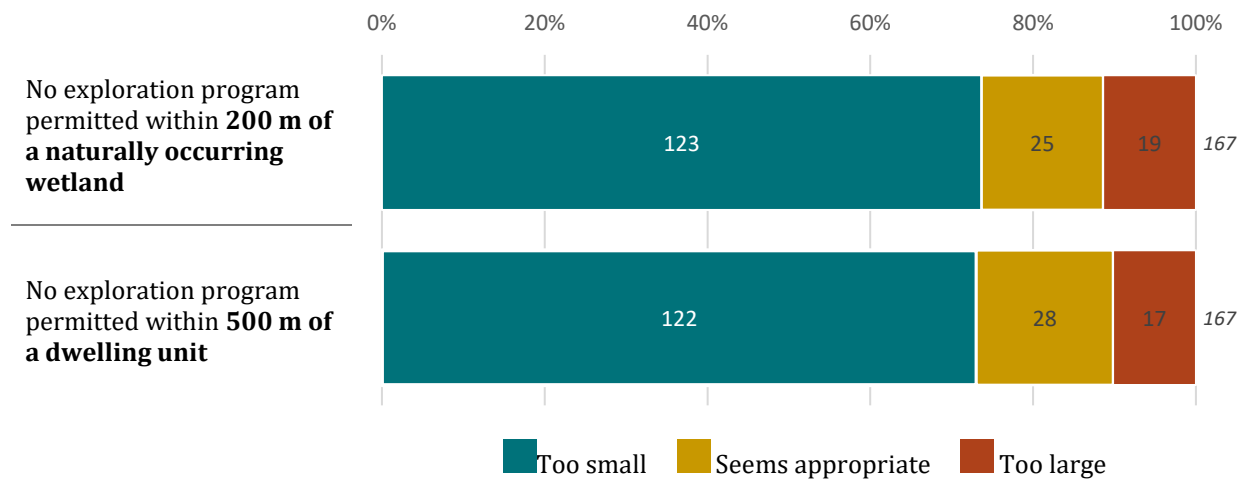
Q11. Do you think public notice of exploration work should be required for low intensity exploration applications (Tier 1, 2 or 3 activities)?



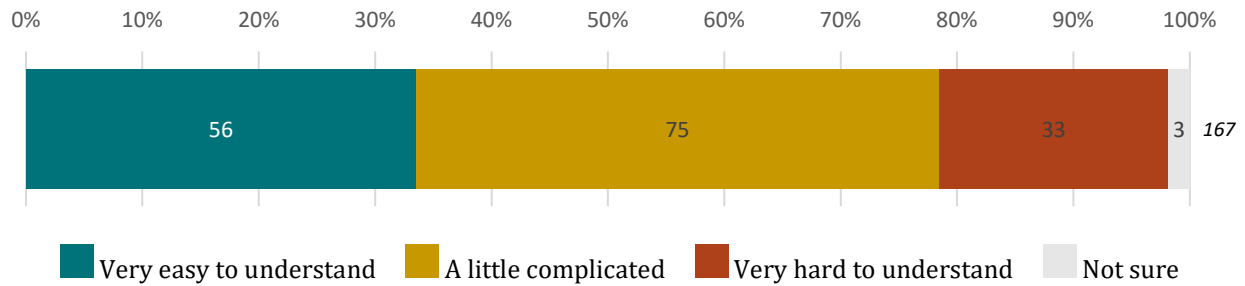
Q12. Do you think applicant-led public engagement should be mandatory for Tier 4 or Tier 5 applications in addition to the required Public Hearing needed to support the rezoning application?



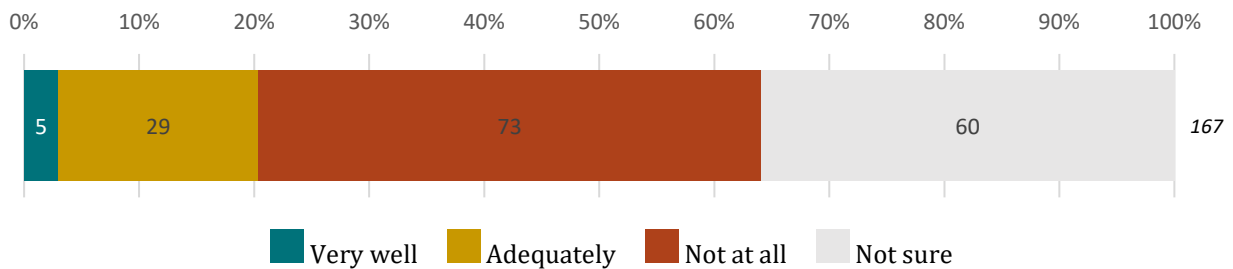
Q12 & Q13. Please indicate your level of support for each of the following buffers.



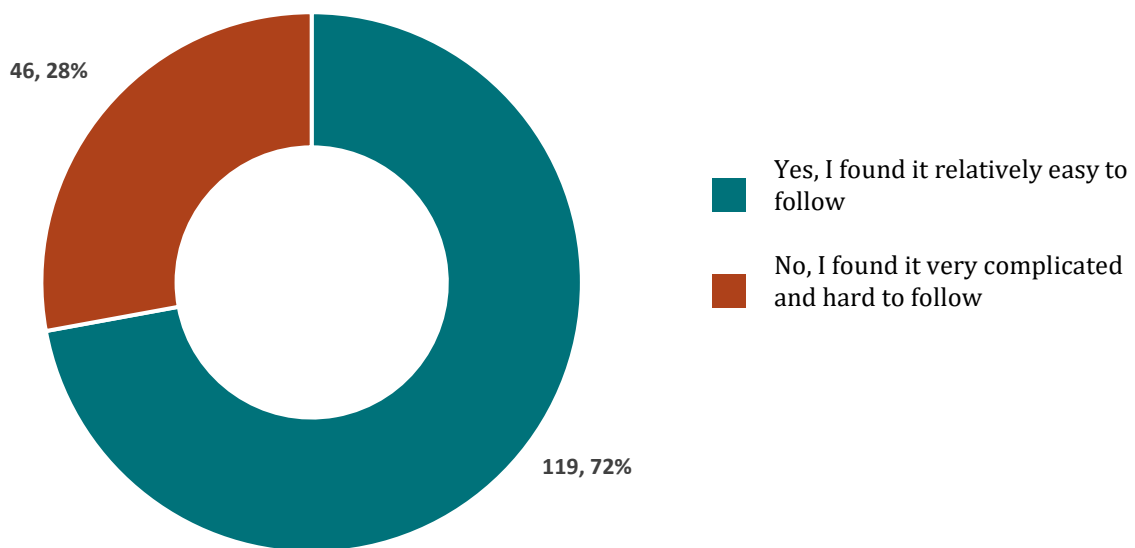
Q14. Based on the provided maps, how easy was it to understand where potential exploration areas and buffers apply for each of the tiers?



Q15. How well do you think the proposed Framework and associated maps reflect the community priorities heard during Engagement Round 1?



Q16. Throughout this survey, do you think the project information was presented in a manner that helped you understand the content and provide meaningful feedback?



6. Considerations moving forward

This report summarizes what was heard during Round 2 engagement, including public open houses, the online survey, meetings with interested and impacted parties, and written submissions. As noted previously, the online survey results are not statistically representative of all Whitehorse residents. Instead, they reflect the views of respondents who chose to participate and are best considered alongside other engagement inputs.

Across engagement streams, perspectives remain divided on whether and how the City should regulate mineral exploration and development within the municipal boundary. Some participants support prohibiting these activities entirely, while others support a municipal role that is clearly defined, coordinated with territorial systems, and responsive to site-specific conditions. Mining industry representatives, in particular, raised concerns about feasibility, certainty, and the impacts on existing mineral rights.

Drawing on the Key Themes and Insights heard, the following considerations have been identified to reflect areas where participants identified the greatest need for refinement as the City reviews potential updates to the draft Framework.

SIMPLIFY THE TIER STRUCTURE

Feedback from survey respondents, open house participants, and industry representatives suggests that the number of tiers adds complexity without always improving clarity or outcomes. Tiers one and two were frequently described as similar in practice.

Moving forward, the City may wish to consider whether lower tiers could be combined or redefined to simplify the Framework while maintaining appropriate distinctions based on activity type, scale, and risk.

IMPROVE CLARITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Many participants found the Framework difficult to understand when reviewed independently. Open house participants noted that their understanding improved after discussing the Framework with City staff and reviewing visuals together.

Moving forward, clearer plain-language explanations, improved visuals, and more intuitive maps could help make the Framework easier to understand without requiring in-person explanation.

UPDATE AND EXPAND MAPPING

Participants emphasized the importance of clear and complete mapping to understand where activities may or may not occur. Requests included identifying First Nations Settlement Lands and clearly named regional parks.

Moving forward, updating maps to include these features and improving labels and readability could provide greater spatial certainty and reduce misunderstanding.

REVIEW TIME-BASED THRESHOLDS

Tier one limits drilling to ten days per pad. Industry representatives and some technical respondents indicated this limit may result in unnecessary movement of equipment without a corresponding reduction in impacts.

Moving forward, the City may wish to review whether time-based thresholds effectively manage impacts or whether alternative approaches based on physical disturbance or mitigation would better align with current practices.

REASSESS BUFFERS AND SETBACKS

Buffers, particularly around waterbodies, generated strong and divergent views. Many residents supported precautionary setbacks, while industry representatives questioned whether proposed distances are justified based on environmental risk and existing regulation.

Moving forward, the City may consider whether buffer distances appropriately balance environmental protection with access, and whether clearer provisions for site-specific conditions or mitigation would improve outcomes.

STRENGTHEN PUBLIC NOTICE AND ENGAGEMENT EXPECTATIONS

Many participants expressed a desire to be informed about mineral exploration at all levels, not only higher-tier activities. There was broad support for public notice and applicant-led engagement, scaled to activity intensity.

Moving forward, the City may wish to consider whether engagement requirements should apply across all tiers, with expectations proportionate to potential impacts.

Appendices

Engagement Round #2
What We Heard Report

Appendix A Engagement Round 2 Open House Display Boards



Background

- The Government of Yukon regulates mining activities under the *Quartz Mining Act* and *Placer Mining Act*.
- The City of Whitehorse manages where activities can occur through the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw.
- These tools determine where mineral exploration and development should or should not be allowed.

Why is this happening?

- In 2023, a resident asked the City to prohibit mineral exploration and mining within City limits.
- The proposal went through Council and a public hearing, revealing strong and mixed community views.
- The City launched a full review of local mining regulations and best practices from other jurisdictions.
- A draft **Mineral Exploration and Development Framework** was developed based on this review and *Engagement Round 1*.
- A second round of engagement is now underway to share this draft Framework and gather further feedback.

City of Whitehorse Authority

2012 ORDER IN COUNCIL

In 2012, an OIC was put in place by Yukon government that **prohibits the staking of mineral claims** in most of the City of Whitehorse.

New mineral claims are allowed in limited areas outside of the OIC, mainly along the western boundary of the municipality, in an area that generally overlaps with the copper belt.

Existing claims, whether within the OIC or not, are grandfathered and do not expire if they are kept in good standing.

2040 OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN AND ZONING BYLAW

The City controls surface activities, land use, and environmental considerations through the OCP and Zoning Bylaw.

Mineral exploration or mine development are **currently allowed** in the Natural Resource Extraction designation.

- **The Natural Resource Extraction** designation includes several regulations to manage the impacts of mining and exploration. Mineral exploration or mine development have also been accommodated allowed in the Industrial designation.

Mineral exploration and mining are allowed in the current Zoning Bylaw in the Industrial-Quarries zone as a Principal Use and in the Industrial – Heavy zone as Conditional Use.

The City is currently considering a new Zoning Bylaw, which, if adopted, would **change the uses allowed in different zones**.

Engagement Process

TIMELINE

June – July 2025

- Online survey
- Meetings with First Nations
- Meetings with Stakeholders

January – February 2026

- Review Engagement Round 1 feedback
- Publish Mineral Exploration and Development Framework
- Open Houses:
 - February 23rd 4-7:30pm
Shipyards Park - Frank Slim Building
 - February 26th 4-7:30pm
Canada Games Centre - Green Room
- Review Engagement Round 2 feedback

March – April 2026

- Provide public updates on Engagement Round 2
- Create What We Heard Report and identify next steps



What We Heard Engagement Round 1

PURPOSE

Engagement Round 1 gathered early input from key stakeholders and the community to inform the City's Mining Policy.

Focus was on understanding **community values, concerns, and expectations** related to mineral exploration within City limits.

Input was collected through meetings with representatives from the exploration and mining industry, local Environmental Organizations and a public survey.

The goal was to identify priorities, uncertainties, and themes needing further attention as the policy is refined.

SURVEY

- An online survey was open from June 24 to July 28, 2025 and was completed by **430 people**.
- The survey had **14 questions** with a mix of multiple choice, open ended and ranking questions.
- The Engagement Round 1 What We Heard Report can be found on the Engage Whitehorse website.

KEY THEMES

General Thoughts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community opinion is divided on mineral exploration within City limits. • Over half the respondents want no mineral exploration or mineral development allowed at all within City limits. • Almost half of respondents feel that exploration and mineral development are important to the local economy. • Over half of respondents felt that permitting should vary in intensity based on the mining or development activity proposed. • Some respondents would prefer to see activity only in existing claims or previously disturbed areas. • Many respondents want strong protection for environmentally sensitive areas, waterbodies, residential areas, and recreation spaces.
Role of the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were mixed views on which government should take the lead on mining regulations. Some respondents want the City to take the lead. • Others say that Yukon government should take the lead on regulating exploration and mineral development activities.
Mitigating Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents shared concerns about water quality, natural systems, habitat, noise, dust, traffic, and risk of spills or contamination. • Respondents shared a desire for a permitting process that clearly explains how impacts will be managed and mitigated. • Respondents wanted to see strong enforcement and proper resources to back up regulations.
Clarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses highlighted requests for clearer zoning definitions, stronger engagement requirements, and better alignment with territorial laws. • Some respondents support flexible zoning that allows exploration with strict conditions.
Where activities are permitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, participants would like to see mineral exploration and mining activities permitted in previously mined areas, remote or undeveloped areas, and industrial areas. • In general, participants would not like to see mineral exploration and mining activities near neighbourhoods, parks, trails, or environmentally sensitive areas



Context

TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY

Quartz Mining Act

- This Act sets the rules for staking mineral claims, exploring, and developing minerals in the Yukon.
- It provides the framework for how companies get permits, what activities are allowed, and how claims are kept in good standing.
- The Act still applies within City limits, meaning mineral rights and subsurface exploration remain a territorial responsibility.

Municipal Act

- While the City cannot decide where staking happens, it can regulate how exploration happens on the surface, and can regulate things like access, land use, and development impacts through OCP policies and Zoning Bylaw regulation.
- Under this Act, drilling and similar activities count as development, and therefore may require City permits and must follow local bylaws.

How the Acts work together

- Both Acts apply at the same time. One does not override the other.
- The territorial government controls mineral rights and subsurface exploration while the Municipal Act controls land use within municipal boundaries.

Draft Framework

HOW THE DRAFT FRAMEWORK WAS DEVELOPED

The City has prepared a **draft Mineral Exploration and Development Framework** influenced by legislation, experience in permitting current exploration operations, and feedback from the Engagement Round 1.

This draft Framework outlines a **five-tiered approach** to regulating mineral exploration and development based on intensity of operations and potential impacts. This draft Framework is in line with the current Whitehorse Official Community Plan, which supports some exploration and mineral development, while also protecting the environment and quality of life.

Mineral Exploration and Development Framework

Tier	Impact	Key Components
1	Very low	No new road or trail access; minimal disturbance
2	Low	More equipment and duration, but no new trails
3	Moderate	Limited new trail construction
4	High	Major vegetation clearing, heavy equipment
5	Very High	Full mine development and operations



Tier 4 and 5 Activity Maps

Mining and exploration activities in Tier 4 and Tier 5 are allowed in the Natural Resource Extraction land use designation under the Official Community Plan. However, the current Zoning Bylaw does not include zones that permit these activities, so, **Tier 4 and Tier 5 activities are not currently permitted within the municipal boundary today.**



The new Zoning Bylaw introduces two new zones for these activities:

- **OME – Mineral Exploration** for Tier 4 activities
- **OME – Mine Development** for Tier 5 activities

If the bylaw is adopted, anyone planning Tier 4 or Tier 5 activities will need to apply for a rezoning. This process includes: a detailed review of the application, a public hearing, and a decision by Council. This approach helps the community see how potential impacts will be managed and gives Council a clear path to evaluate each proposal.

Do you have any comments about the Draft Framework?

A large, empty, rounded rectangular box intended for users to provide their comments on the draft framework.



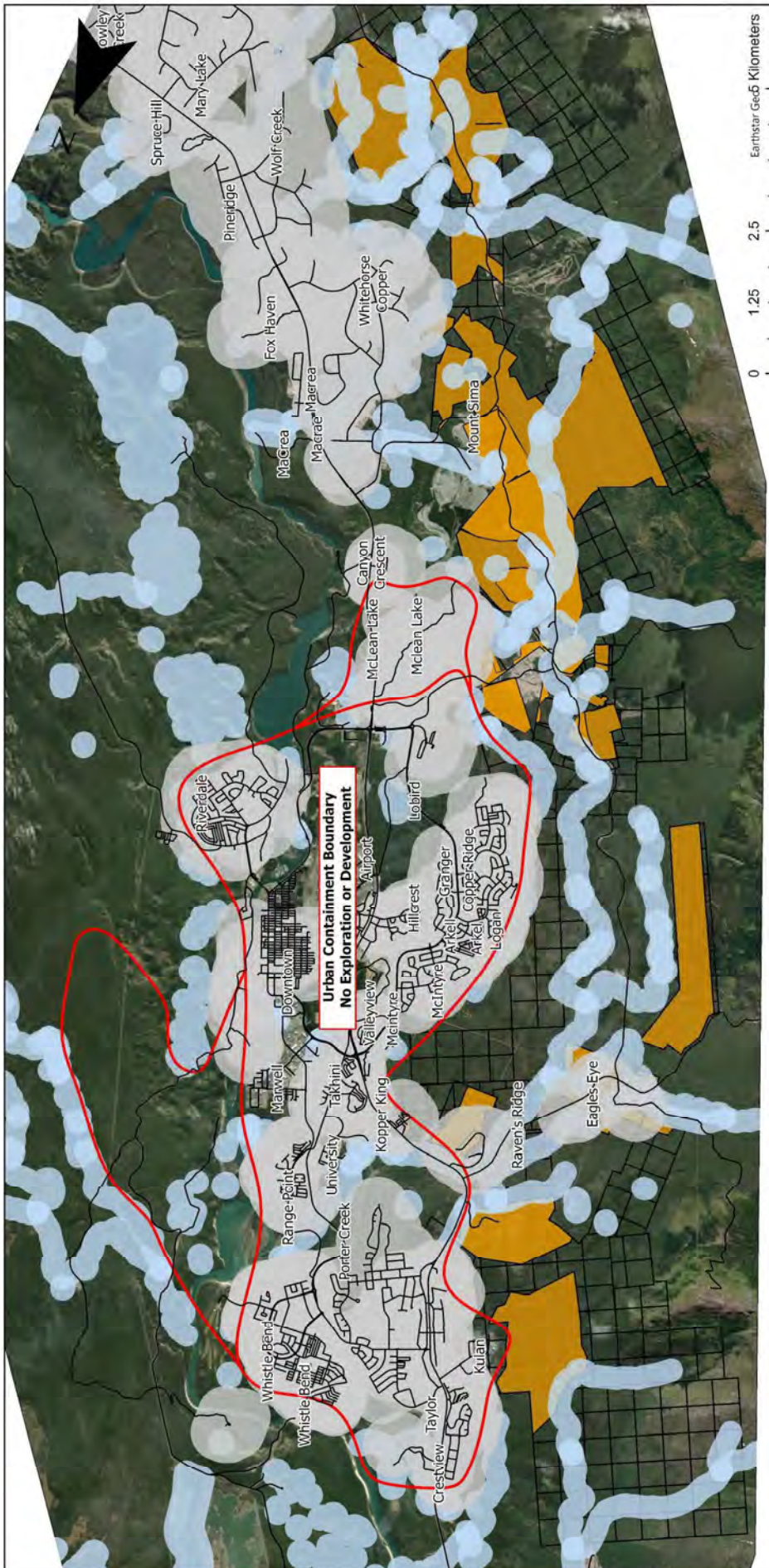
City of Whitehorse DRAFT Mineral Exploration and Development Framework

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
Intent	Low Impact Exploration No trail or road construction	Low Impact Exploration No trail or road construction	Medium Impact Exploration Some trail or road construction	High Impact Exploration	Mine Development
Approved Project Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Low-impact</u> drilling techniques only • Less than 10 days per pad • Drilling equipment must be mounted on a <u>rubber-tracked</u> vehicle • Supporting vehicles and equipment must be <u>rubber-tracked</u> or, if wheeled, remain on the road • ATVs, UTVs, and snowmobiles may be used for access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Low-impact</u> drilling techniques only • Less than 20 days per pad • Drilling equipment may be skid-mounted, track-mounted, or truck-mounted • Supporting vehicles and equipment must be track-mounted or remain on the road or <u>pre-existing trails</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Low-impact</u> drilling techniques only • Less than 20 days per pad • Drilling equipment may be skid-mounted, track-mounted, or truck-mounted • Supporting vehicles and equipment must be track-mounted or remain on the road or <u>pre-existing trail</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Exploratory drilling</u> of any form may take place by any means, provided the method complies with Yukon Territorial laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining (the removal and processing of rock or minerals) is allowed, provided the operations comply with Yukon Territorial laws
Cutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limbing and brushing permitted • No cutting of trees with a stump diameter over 10 cm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limbing and brushing permitted • No cutting of trees with a stump diameter over 10 cm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limbing and brushing permitted • No cutting of trees with a stump diameter over 20 cm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting and clearing permitted up to 2 hectares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determined by the Development Permit
Permitting Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre- and Post-Site Inspection Reports must be completed by the applicant and submitted to a Development Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre- and Post-Site Inspection Reports must be completed by the applicant and submitted to a Development Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre- and Post-Site Inspection Reports must be completed by the applicant and submitted to a Development Officer • Inspections required on a bi-weekly basis throughout the drilling project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre- and Post-Site Inspection Reports must be completed by a Development Officer • Inspections required on a bi-weekly basis throughout the drilling project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined
Development Permit Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Use Permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Use Permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Use Permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Community Plan amendment • Zoning Bylaw amendment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Community Plan amendment • Zoning Bylaw amendment
Official Community Plan Land Use Designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All designations outside of the Urban Containment Boundary, <u>except</u> Greenspace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All designations outside of the Urban Containment Boundary, <u>except</u> Greenspace and Future Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial • Natural Resource Extraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resource Extraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resource Extraction
Zoning Bylaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only in a new, proposed zone: "OME – Mineral Exploration" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only in a new, proposed zone: "OMD – Mine Development"
Exploration Permit Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum: Class One Permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum: Class One Permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum: Class One Permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum: Class Three Permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum: Class Four Permit
Project Duration Maximum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determined by the Development Permit
Development Review and First Nations Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required
Additional Requirements: Tier-Specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site shall be remediated to its pre-site condition • Test pits shall be filled in to their preexisting grades, and checked for slumping the following year • Tier 2 methods may be used under a Tier 1 notification, provided drilling takes place between December 1 and February 28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site shall be remediated to its pre-site conditions • Test pits shall be filled in to their preexisting grades, and checked for slumping the following year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site shall be remediated to its pre-site condition, unless otherwise directed by the City Engineer • Test pits shall be filled in to their preexisting grades, and checked for slumping the following year • Trail construction may be permitted, on a case-by-case basis by the City Engineer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail construction may be permitted, on a case-by-case basis by the City Engineer 	
Additional Requirements for All Tiers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All drilling activities must comply with all applicable Yukon Territorial laws. 2. No exploration activities shall be permitted within: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 500 m of a permitted dwelling unit b. 700 m of a naturally occurring watercourse 3. A spill response plan must be submitted if onsite fueling is taking place 4. All holes drilled to a depth of 25 m or more shall be backfilled to the bottom of the hole, or to a depth of 100 m, whichever is less. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Holes shall be filled with a suitable cement, grout, concrete, bentonite, or equivalent commercial slurry, or slay slurry, impervious water well cuttings, or impervious overburden materials. Fill must be introduced at the bottom of the hole and placed progressively upwards, unless it is designed and manufactured for the purpose of being introduced into the water well from the ground surface. 6. The City may inspect any permitted exploration program without prior notice given to the proponents. 		
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low impact: A program that does not require any alteration of the landscape • Medium impact: A program that requires tree clearing, and significant occupation of land • High impact: A program that requires earth-moving, tree clearing, and significant occupation of land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploratory drilling: A form of drilling with the intent of discovering the mineral potential of a given area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skid-mounted: Equipment mounted on a skid intended to be pushed or pulled • Rubber-tracked: A vehicle with self-propelled rubber tracks that produces no more than 28 Kilopascals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-existing trail: A trail that was in place prior to the application being made, that is not otherwise slated for deactivation • A trails classification shall be the discretion of the manager of parks 	





Learn more and provide your feedback at engagewhitehorse.ca/mining



Legend

- Tier 1 - Approvable Areas
- Roads
- Urban Containment Boundary
- Claims/Crown Grants
- Water Buffer - No Development
- Residential Buffer - No Development

Mineral Exploration and Development Framework

Description of Map Features:

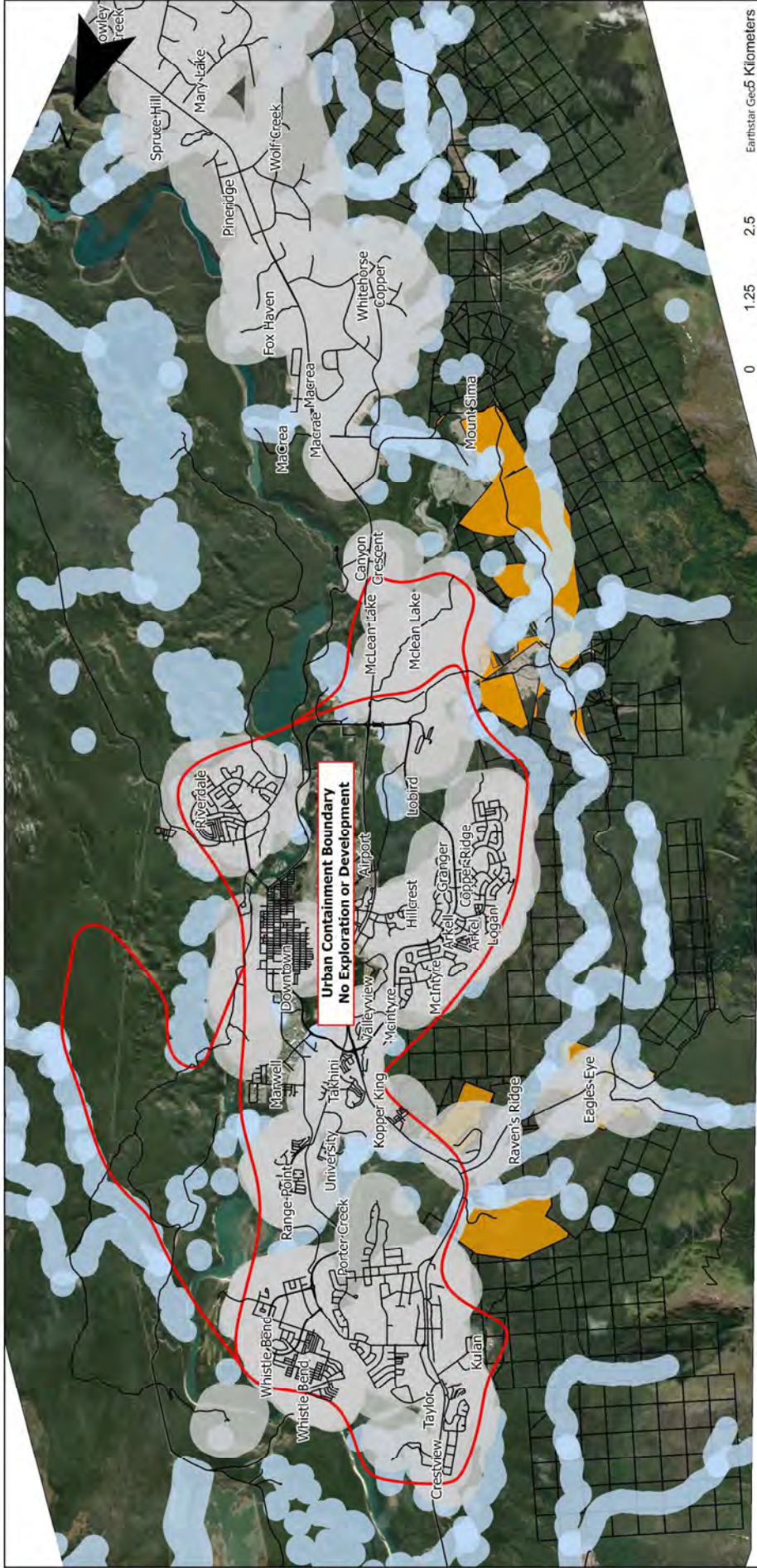
- Exploration programs shall not be permitted within 200 meters of a naturally occurring watercourse
- Exploration programs shall not be permitted within 500 meters of a permitted dwelling unit
- Areas designated orange, may be approved for tier one exploration activities



Date: 02/04/2026






Tier 1 Map









Mineral Exploration and Development Framework

Description of Map Features:

-  Exploration programs shall not be permitted within 200 meters of a naturally occurring watercourse
-  Exploration programs shall not be permitted within 500 meters of a permitted dwelling unit
-  Areas designated orange, may be approved for tier two exploration activities

Legend

-  Tier 2 - Approvable Areas
-  Roads
-  Urban Containment Boundary
-  Claims/Crown Grants
-  Water Buffer - No Development
-  Residential Buffer - No Development



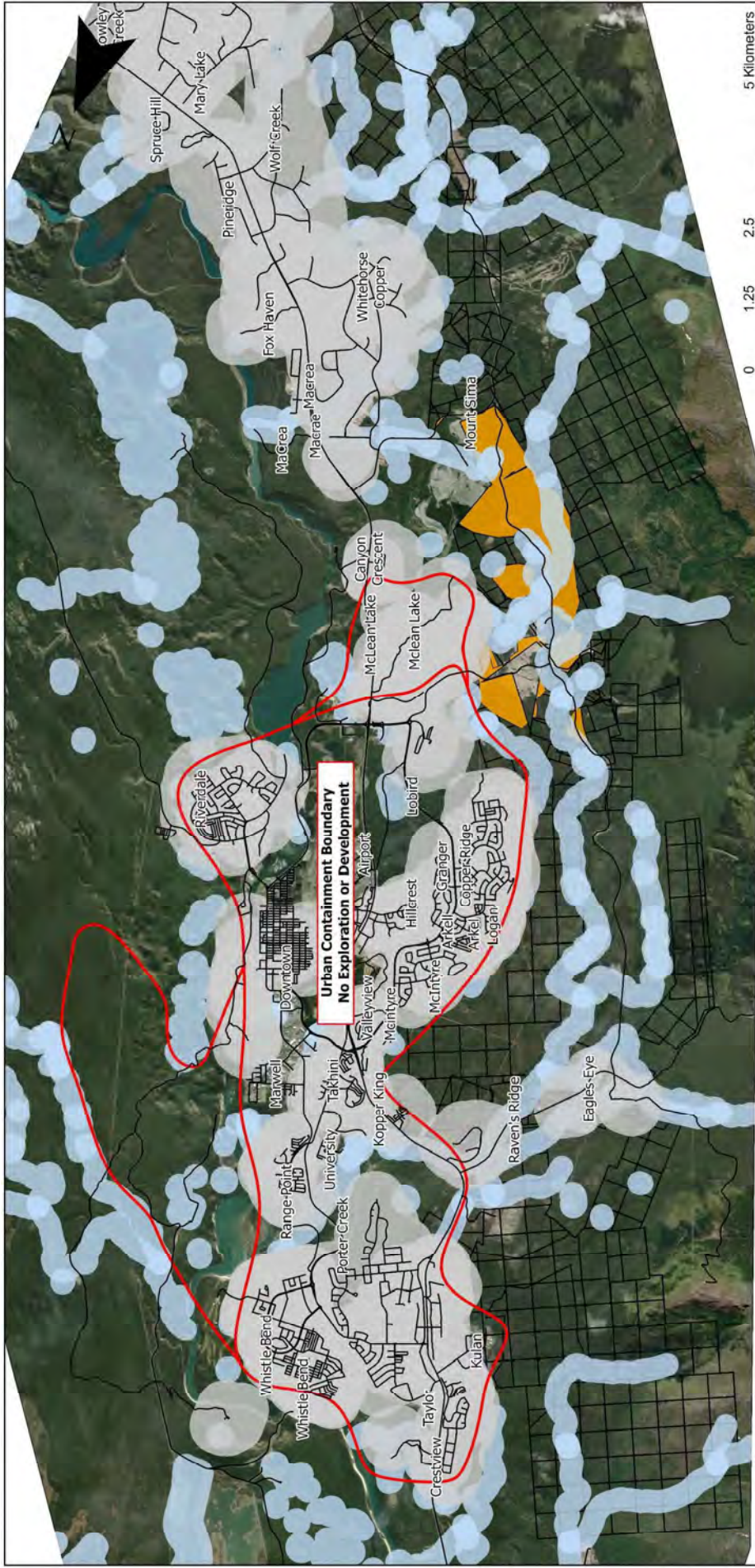
Date: 02/04/2026



Tier 2 Map

Learn more and provide your feedback at engagewhitehorse.ca/mining





Mineral Exploration and Development Framework

Description of Map Features:

- Exploration programs shall not be permitted within 200 meters of a naturally occurring watercourse
- Exploration programs shall not be permitted within 500 meters of a permitted dwelling unit
- Areas designated orange, may be approved for tier three exploration activities

Legend

- Tier 3 - Approvable Areas
- Roads
- Urban Containment Boundary
- Claims/Crown Grants
- Water Buffer - No Development
- Residential Buffer - No Development



Date: 02/04/2026



Learn more and provide your feedback at engagewhitehorse.ca/mining



Tier 3 Map

Engagement Round #2
What We Heard Report

Appendix B Engagement Round 2 Survey



Mineral Exploration and Development

Engage Whitehorse

Mineral Exploration and Development Survey

Background

Regulating mineral exploration and development in Whitehorse is complex. While the Government of Yukon regulates mining activities through the *Quartz Mining Act* and *Placer Mining Act*, the City can guide land use through its *Official Community Plan (OCP)* and *Zoning Bylaw*. This includes identifying areas where certain activities—like mineral exploration and development—should or should not be allowed.

The City is engaging with residents, stakeholders and other governments to collect input on how mineral exploration and development should be regulated within city limits. The feedback received will be used to develop draft amendments to the *OCP* and *Zoning Bylaw* that will be brought forward for adoption through the regular Council process.

Why is this happening?

In late 2023, a member of the public applied to amend the City's *Official Community Plan* and *Zoning Bylaw* to prohibit mineral exploration and mining within city limits. This proposal went through the regular City Council process, including a public hearing. During and after that hearing, the City heard many comments from residents and local groups, showing that mining in Whitehorse is a complex and often controversial issue.

In 2024, the City decided to undertake a comprehensive review of the current regulatory framework for mining and exploration, how other jurisdictions across Canada manage mining activities, and municipal best practices that could help guide local decision-making. A first round of engagement to gather feedback from the public and interested and impacted parties, was completed on this project in summer of 2025. Based on a review of best practices, Government of Yukon processes, and experience with permitting for current exploration activities in Whitehorse, City staff developed a draft Mineral Exploration and Development Framework. The draft Framework was then refined to reflect comments from the first round of engagement.

A second round of engagement is now underway to share this draft Framework and gather further feedback.

Question:

So far, how effective do you think this engagement process has been in gathering the feedback needed to inform Council about a decision on this topic?

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Not at all effective
- Somewhat effective
- Very effective
- Not sure

What We Heard - Engagement Round 1

Purpose

The purpose of the Engagement Round 1 was to gather early input from key stakeholders and the broader community to help inform the development of the City's Mineral Exploration and Development Framework. This initial round of engagement focused on understanding community values, concerns, and expectations related to mineral exploration in city limits.

Through meetings with representatives from the exploration and mining industry, local Environmental Organizations and through a public survey, the project team sought to identify priorities, areas of uncertainty, and themes that require further attention as the policy is refined.

Survey

Mineral Exploration and Development

Engage Whitehorse

The survey was open from June 24 to July 28, 2025, and was completed by 430 people. The survey had 14 questions with a mix of multiple choice, open ended and ranking questions. The Engagement Round 1 *What We Heard Report* can be found on the Engage Whitehorse website.

Key Themes

What we heard from Engagement Round 1 was:

General Thoughts

- Community opinion is divided on mineral exploration within city limits.
- Some residents want no mineral exploration or mineral development allowed at all within city limits.
- More than half of the Engagement Round 1 participants felt that permitting should vary in intensity based on the mining or development activity proposed.
- Almost half of respondents feel that exploration and mineral development are important to the local economy.
- Some respondents would prefer to see activity only in existing claims or previously disturbed areas. Many respondents want strong protection for environmentally sensitive areas, waterbodies, residential areas, and recreation spaces.

Role of the City

- There were mixed views on which government should take the lead on mining regulations. Some respondents want the City to take the lead, others say that the Government of Yukon should take the lead on regulating exploration and mineral development activities.

Mitigating Impacts

- Respondents shared concerns about water quality, natural systems, habitat, noise, dust, traffic, and risk of spills or contamination.
- Respondents shared a desire for a permitting process that clearly explains how impacts will be managed and mitigated.
- Respondents wanted to see strong enforcement and proper resources to back up regulations.

Clarity

- Responses highlighted requests for clearer zoning definitions, stronger engagement requirements, and better alignment with territorial laws.
- Some respondents support flexible zoning that allows exploration with strict conditions.

Context

Territorial Authority

Quartz Mining Act

- This *Act* sets the rules for staking mineral claims, exploring, and developing minerals in the Yukon.
- It provides the framework for how companies get permits, what activities are allowed, and how claims are kept in good standing.
- The *Act* still applies within city limits, meaning mineral rights and subsurface exploration remain a territorial responsibility.

Mineral Exploration and Development

Engage Whitehorse

Municipal Act

- While the City cannot decide where staking happens, it can regulate how exploration happens on the surface, and can regulate things like access, land use, and development impacts through *OCP* policies and *Zoning Bylaw* regulation.
- Under this *Act*, drilling and similar activities count as development, and therefore may require City permits and must follow local bylaws.

How they work together

- Both *Acts* apply at the same time. One does not override the other.
- The territorial government controls mineral rights and subsurface exploration while the *Municipal Act* controls land use within municipal boundaries.

City of Whitehorse Authority

2012 Order in Council

- In 2012 an OIC was put in place by Yukon government that prohibits the staking of mineral claims in most of the City of Whitehorse. New mineral claims are allowed in limited areas outside of the OIC, mainly along the western boundary of the municipality, in an area that generally overlaps with the copper belt. Existing claims, whether within the OIC or not, are grandfathered and do not expire if they are kept in good standing.

2040 Official Community Plan

- The City controls surface activities, land use, and environmental considerations through the *Official Community Plan* (OCP) and *Zoning Bylaw*.
- In the City's *OCP*, mineral exploration or mine development are currently allowed in the *Natural Resource Extraction*. The *Natural Resource Extraction* designation includes several regulations to manage the impacts of mining and exploration. Mineral exploration or mine development have also been accommodated in the *Industrial* designation.

City of Whitehorse Zoning Bylaw

- Mineral exploration and mining are allowed in the current *Zoning Bylaw* in the Industrial-Quarries zone as a Principal Use and in the Industrial – Heavy zone as Conditional Use.
- The City is currently considering a new *Zoning Bylaw*, which, if adopted, would change the uses allowed in different zones.

Questions:

How well do you understand the role and authority of the City of Whitehorse in regulating mineral exploration and mining in the city?

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Do not understand at all
- Still a bit confused
- Completely understand

Mineral Exploration and Development

Engage Whitehorse

Not sure

How would you describe the Government of Yukon's mining legislation when it comes to regulating mineral exploration within municipal boundaries?

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Not at all effective
- Somewhat effective
- Very effective
- Not sure

How would you describe the City of Whitehorse's OCP and Zoning Bylaw when it comes to regulating mineral exploration within municipal boundaries?

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Not at all effective
- Somewhat effective
- Very effective
- Not sure

Which of the following statements do you most agree with?

I think the City...

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- should prohibit all mineral exploration or mining within the municipal boundary.
- should impose stricter regulations on mineral exploration and mining within the municipal boundary.
- has enough regulations on mineral exploration and mining within the municipal boundary.
- should impose less regulations on mineral exploration and mining within the municipal boundary.
- should remove all City regulations on mineral exploration and mining within the municipal boundary and defer regulation responsibilities to the Yukon Government.
- Not sure

Draft Framework

How the Draft Framework was developed

The City has prepared a [Draft Mineral Exploration and Development Framework](#) influenced by legislation, experience permitting current exploration operations, and feedback from the Engagement Round 1.

Mineral Exploration and Development

Engage Whitehorse

City of Whitehorse DRAFT Mineral Exploration and Development Framework					
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
Intent	Low Impact Exploration No trail or road construction	Low Impact Exploration No trail or road construction	Medium Impact Exploration Some trail or road construction	High Impact Exploration	Mine Development
Approved Project Parameters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited amount of drilling infrastructure • Less than 10 days per year • Drilling equipment may be used on a limited basis • Supporting vehicles and equipment may be used • Use of vehicles, trailers on the road • AUVs, UAVs, and instruments may be used for access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited amount of drilling infrastructure • Less than 10 days per year • Drilling equipment may be used on a limited basis • Supporting vehicles and equipment may be used • Use of vehicles, trailers on the road • AUVs, UAVs, and instruments may be used for access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 20 days per year • Drilling equipment may be used on a limited basis • Supporting vehicles and equipment may be used • Use of vehicles, trailers on the road • AUVs, UAVs, and instruments may be used for access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial drilling of new Active may take place by any means, provided the overhead conditions with Yukon Territorial laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining (low potential and potential of rock or minerals) is allowed, provided the operations comply with Yukon Territorial laws
Cutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited and localized • No cutting of trees with a diameter greater than 10 cm • No and final site inspection reports to be completed by the applicant and submitted to a Development Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited and localized • No cutting of trees with a diameter greater than 10 cm • No and final site inspection reports to be completed by the applicant and submitted to a Development Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited and localized permitted • No cutting of trees with a diameter greater than 10 cm • No and final site inspection reports to be completed by the applicant and submitted to a Development Officer • Temporary use permit for a 6-month period throughout the drilling period • Temporary Use Permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting and clearing permitted up to 2 hectares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determined by the Development Permit
Permitting Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Use Permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Use Permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Use Permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No to be determined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No to be determined
Development Permit Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All development outside of the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) is prohibited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All development outside of the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) is prohibited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited • Natural Resource Extraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resource Extraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Community Plan, Development Permit • Mining Permit • Natural Resource Extraction
 zoning Review Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only in a zone, proposed zone "MINE - Active Development" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only in a zone, proposed zone "MINE - Active Development"
Development Permit Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Class One Permit • 3 years • Not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Class One Permit • 3 years • Required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Class One Permit • 3 years • Required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Class One Permit • 3 years • Required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Class One Permit • 3 years • Determined by the Development Permit • Required
Development Permit Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer • The applicant must be responsible for the site conditions, unless otherwise stated by the City Engineer
Development Permit Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All drilling activities shall comply with applicable Yukon Territorial laws • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All drilling activities shall comply with applicable Yukon Territorial laws • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All drilling activities shall comply with applicable Yukon Territorial laws • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All drilling activities shall comply with applicable Yukon Territorial laws • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All drilling activities shall comply with applicable Yukon Territorial laws • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... • All drilling activities shall be permitted within... • All drilling activities shall be permitted within...
Development Permit Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Impact • Medium Impact • High Impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Impact • Medium Impact • High Impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Impact • Medium Impact • High Impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Impact • Medium Impact • High Impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Impact • Medium Impact • High Impact

This draft Framework outlines a five-tiered approach to regulating mineral exploration and development based on intensity of operations and potential impacts. This draft Framework is in line with the current Whitehorse *Official Community Plan*, which supports some exploration and mineral development, while also protecting the environment and quality of life.

Temporary Use Permits

Temporary Use Permits (TUP) allow a specific use for only a fixed period of time, with the intent to discontinue the activity after the fixed period is over. The City may issue a TUP provided the use is compliant with the OCP.

Development Permits

A Development Permit authorizes development on land within the City of Whitehorse. "Development" means any new use, change of use, or change of intensity of use on any land within the city.

Different Types of Rigs

Mineral Exploration and Development

Engage Whitehorse



Rubber Track Mounted Drill

Skid Mounted Drill

Truck Mounted Drill

Designed to be lower impact as tracks spread the weight of the equipment out.

A skid mounted drill can be manoeuvred along trails but has more impact than track mounted drills.

A truck mounted drill can vary in size. A road is required to access sites, and some truck mounted drills are quite large.

Explaining the Five Tiers

Mineral Exploration and Development Framework

Tier	Impact	Key Components
1	Very low	No new road or trail access; minimal disturbance
2	Low	More equipment and duration, but no new trails
3	Moderate	Limited new trail construction
4	High	Major vegetation clearing, heavy equipment
5	Very High	Full mine development and operations

Tier 1 - Low impact exploration

- Requires low impact rubber tracked drill mounted rigs
- Short duration operations
- Limited access and vegetative clearing allowances
- Permitted outside the Urban Containment Area in the *OCP* except in the areas designated Greenspace
- Permitted in all zoning districts contingent on *OCP* alignment
- Implemented through a Temporary Use Permit

Tier 2 - Low impact exploration

- Slightly broader equipment allowances
- Extended duration of operations
- Permitted outside the Urban Containment Area in the *OCP* but not allowed in areas designated Greenspace or Future Planning
- Implemented through a Temporary Use Permit

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Tier 3 - Medium impact exploration

- Similar equipment allowance to Tier 2
- Relaxed allowances for vegetative clearing
- Further extended duration of operations
- Permitted in areas designated Industrial and Natural Resource Extraction in the *OCP*
- Implemented through a Temporary Use Permit

Tier 4 - High impact exploration

- Broad allowances for drilling techniques
- Significant allowances for access and vegetative clearing
- Permitted in Natural Resource Extraction *OCP* designation
- Requires rezoning into new “Mineral Exploration” zone
- Development Permit is required

Tier 5 - Mine development

- Broad allowances for extraction and processing of minerals on site
- Potential for significant impact on landscape
- Permitted in Natural Resource Extraction *OCP* designation
- Requires rezoning into new “Mine Development” zone
- Development Permit is required
- Subject to rigorous Territorial regulation

Additional requirements

- All holes drilled to a depth of 25 metres or more shall be backfilled to the bottom of the hole, or to a depth of 100 metres whichever is less. Holes shall be filled with a suitable cement, grout, concrete, bentonite or equivalent commercial slurry, or clay slurry, impervious water well cuttings or impervious overburden materials
- The City may inspect any permitted exploration program without prior notice given to the proponents
- No exploration program shall be permitted within 500 metres of a permitted dwelling unit
- Exploration programs shall not be permitted within 200 metres of a naturally occurring watercourse
- Tier 2 methods may be used under a Tier 1 notification provided drilling takes place between December 1st and February 28th

It is important to note that the regulations in the Framework would not apply to water well or monitoring well drilling. These regulations will also not apply to any geotechnical investigations provided they are within the site of an approved Master Plan.

Questions:

How clear do you think the tiered Framework (Tier 1–5) is in explaining the increasing levels of impact and required oversight necessary for different types of mineral exploration and mining activities in municipal limits?

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

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- Not at all clear
- Somewhat clear
- Very clear
- Not sure

Do you think the differences between each of the tiers are meaningful enough?

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Tier differences are too small
- Differences are fine
- Tier differences are too large
- Not sure

How clearly do you think the Framework is in explaining how impacts from mineral exploration and mining would be managed and mitigated within municipal limits?

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Not at all clear
- Somewhat clear
- Very clear
- Not sure

Are there any parts of the Framework that you think need more clarification? Please check all that apply.

(Choose all that apply) (Required)

- Other (please specify)
- Allowed mining methods
- Clearing rules
- Access rules
- Remediation requirements
- Permit types
- Duration limits
- OCP/Zoning requirements
- None of the above

How effective do you think this Framework will be as a tool to help the City balance the community's vision, values, and priorities as they related to mineral exploration and mining in Whitehorse?

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Not at all effective
- Somewhat effective
- Very effective
- Not sure

Application of the Framework

If implemented, this Framework applies to any mineral exploration and mining activities that take place within the City of Whitehorse Municipal Boundary.

A City of Whitehorse development officer would review applications and consider compliance with the *OCP* and *Zoning Bylaw*. If the application meets requirements as set out in the Framework, a TUP would be issued. For Tier 4 and 5 activities, a rezoning would be required, and a public hearing and council approval would be part of this process.

More information about where each tier would be permitted is provided in the next section.

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Questions:

Do you think public notice of exploration work should be required for low intensity exploration applications (Tier 1, 2 or 3 activities)?

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Yes, public notice should be given for Tier 1-3 exploration work
- No, public notice does not need to be given for Tier 1 -3 exploration work
- Not sure

Do you think applicant-led public engagement should be mandatory for Tier 4 or Tier 5 applications in addition to the required Public Hearing needed to support the rezoning application?

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

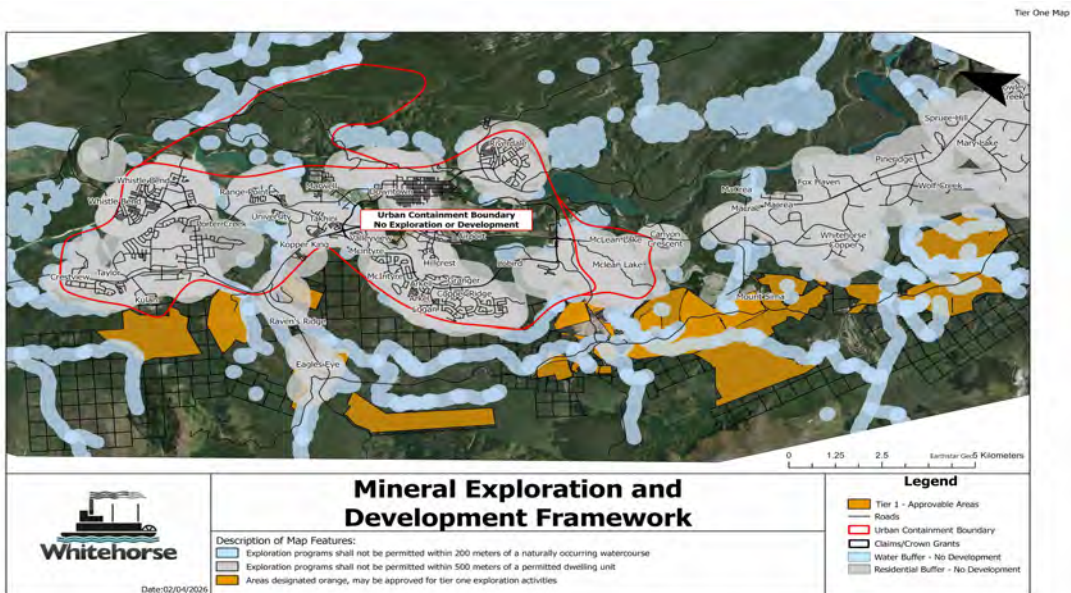
- Yes, public engagement should be mandatory for Tier 4 or Tier 5 applications
- No, the public hearing process is enough for Tier 4 or Tier 5 applications
- Not sure

Location - Where are these activities being considered?

Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 activities

The maps below show where Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 activities may be considered within the municipal boundary. To see larger maps, please click [here](#).

Tier 1

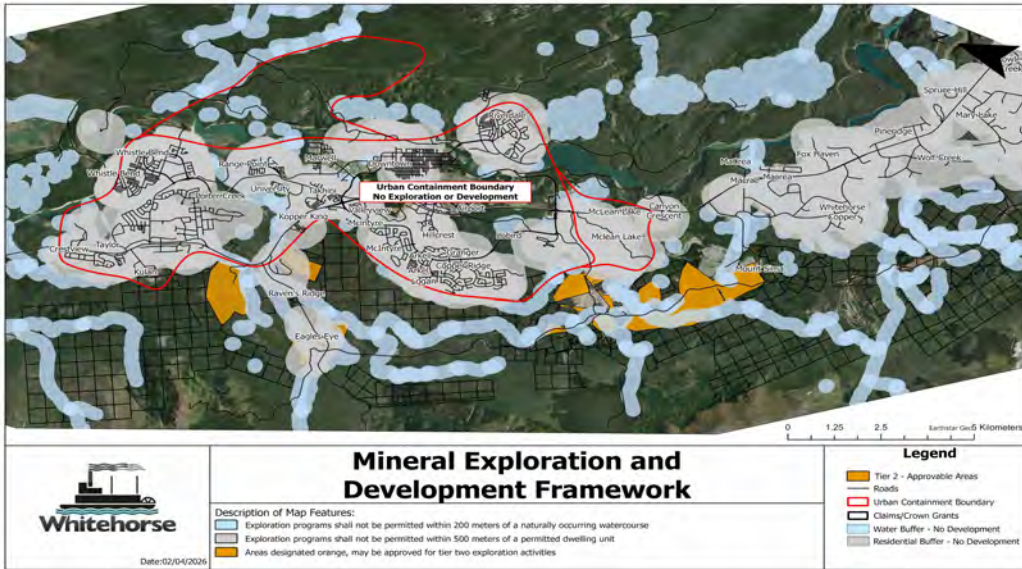


Tier 2

Mineral Exploration and Development

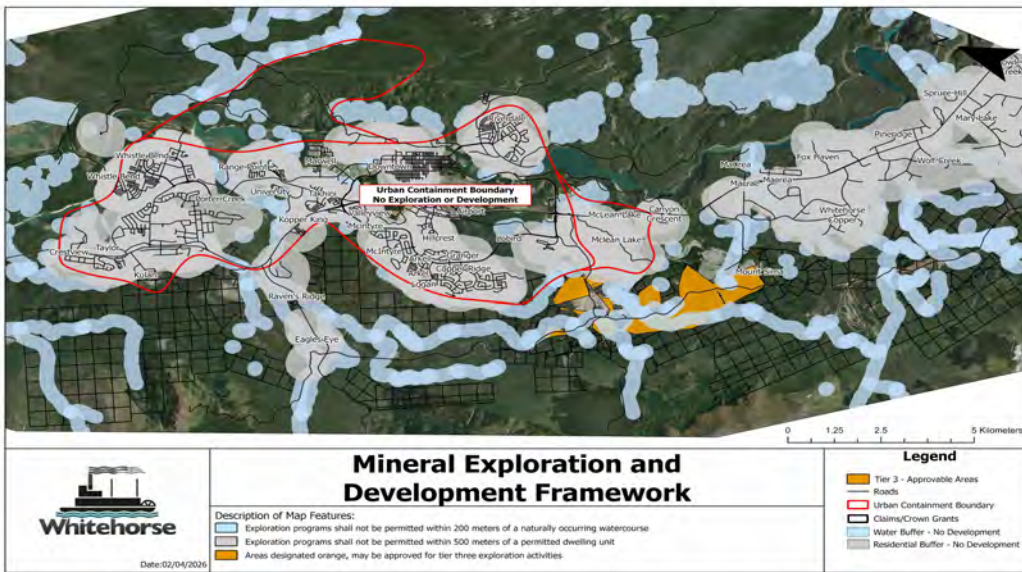
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Tier Two Map



Tier 3

Tier Three Map



Tier 4 and Tier 5 activities

Mining and exploration activities in Tier 4 and Tier 5 are allowed in the Natural Resource Extraction land use designation under the *Official Community Plan*. However, the current *Zoning Bylaw* does not include zones that permit these activities. As a result, Tier 4 and Tier 5 activities are not currently permitted within the municipal boundary.

The new *Zoning Bylaw*, which is being considered for adoption, introduces two new zones for these activities:

- OME – Mineral Exploration for Tier 4
- OMD – Mine Development for Tier 5

When the new *Zoning Bylaw* comes into effect, anyone wanting to carry out Tier 4 or Tier 5 activities will need to apply for a rezoning. This process includes a detailed review, a public hearing, and Council approval.

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All activities

Urban Containment Boundary

- No exploration and mineral development activities will be permitted within the Urban Containment Boundary.

Buffers

- An exploration program shall not be permitted within 200 metres of a naturally occurring wetland
- An exploration program shall not be permitted within 500 metres of a permitted dwelling unit

Questions:

Please indicate your level of support for each of the following buffers.

Questions	Too small	Seems appropriate	Too large
No exploration program permitted within 200 m of a naturally occurring wetland			
No exploration program permitted within 500 m of a dwelling unit			

Based on the provided maps, how easy was it to understand where potential exploration areas and buffers apply for each of the tiers?

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Very hard to understand
- A little complicated
- Very easy to understand
- Not sure

How well do you think the proposed Framework and associated maps reflect the community priorities heard during Engagement Round 1?

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Not at all
- Adequately
- Very well
- Not sure

Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the Draft Mineral Exploration and Development Framework.

Throughout this survey, do you think the project information was presented in a manner that helped you understand the content and provide meaningful feedback?

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Yes, I found it relatively easy to follow

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No, I found it very complicated and hard to follow

Appendix C Survey responses to open-ended Q9

Groundwater, well water protection and water licensing

- “Some acknowledgment or discussion around access to and effects on groundwater resources? I’m sure these will require water licenses, but I guess I just wondered if there will be efforts to monitor effects on groundwater nearby operations?”
- “No industrial activity should be allowed which potentially can impact groundwater quality and quantity since any reduction or pollution of this groundwater will impact the citizens’ well water.”
- “Impacts on groundwater and well water in adjacent areas must be included”
- “Rules and impacts for mining near or on private property/homes. Noise levels. Pollution levels ex. dust in air, ground pollution, well water pollution, etc.”
- “threshold distances from water”
- “They’ve never followed any of the rules so they’re all pointless. ... they’re lying about noise and where the water table is my well is at 25 feet easily within the area that they’re drilling into and yes ever time they drill a hole it [redacted] my water I test it myself I know what's going on!!! ... revoke their permits and immediately ban mining within city limits!!!!”
- “Some elements that I feel are missing: 1) consideration of impacts of drilling/exploration on ground water sources, since many properties closest to potential mineral exploration sites rely on wells for drinking water; 2) any restrictions on work for specific time periods, such as times of year that see high recreation use, wildlife migrations, potential extreme weather events such as wildfires, landslides or floods; times of day when activity would be prohibited due to human and wildlife need to sleep; 3) any consideration of greenhouse gas emissions generated by exploration activities, which can have both short-term effects on human health in the form of air pollution, as well as the longer term impacts on accelerating climate change; 4) clear restrictions on activities around wetlands, since these are important ecosystems that trap carbon, assist in flood mitigation, and are important wildlife habitats”
- “How the Mining companies will clean their mess: chemical and petroleum spills because it is happening all the times. ... Please look around Faro, Elsa, Dawson, Whitehorse... Wake up you guys, decision makers at the city!”

Environmental protection and wildlife impacts

- “Environmental impact assessments and surveying for impact to wildlife in the area”
- “environmental protections Water Pollution Mining activities can lead to water contamination through the release of toxic chemicals and heavy metals into nearby water bodies. This pollution can harm aquatic life and disrupt entire food chains. For instance, the use of hazardous substances like cyanide and mercury in gold mining can result in severe contamination of rivers and lakes, making water unsafe for consumption and affecting local fisheries”
- “Water licence.. Wildlife Animal study. No Gas (LNG) licences . 10 years study impact on Local distric housing & Lifestyle. ***Noise level Study beford Hand (impact on Residential)

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no permit for that ... nope ... ex; ask [redacted] no permit Noise Level...they don't CARE...
First Nation Land ?”

- “noise and pollution violations”

Monitoring, enforcement, penalties and compliance

- “I think everyone will try to start in the lowest tier possible. How will ongoing activities be monitored to ensure work is being done in accordance?”
- “Reinforcement of existing regulatory authority. There is no follow up, no checking that what is authorized is what is being completed. This in fairness is not necessarily limited to the city but the Yukon which I realize is somewhat tainting in this scenario but for mines, the failure to meet requirements has no lasting consequence.”
- “What happens when companies do not comply with the Framework? Are there any penalties that are meaningful? Since there is no other comment field, here is some feedback: Residents of Whitehorse should be able to live, work and play within the municipal boundaries without fear of exploration being undertaken in recreational areas and in their backyard. Mining exploration companies in the Yukon do not have a good track record on protecting the land”
- “The effectiveness of any, indeed all, of the requirements depend on effective monitoring by qualified inspectors (i.e. those with experience and knowledge of mining AND environmental concerns). experience and knowledge of mining AND environmental concerns). are meaningless. Where the Draft Mineral and Exploration Framework states, “The City may inspect any permitted exploration program without any prior notice given to the proponents”, it undermines its own commitment to enforcement. Instead, the draft should replace “may” with “reserves the right to”.
- “These Frameworks and steps to mitigate will never be monitored. Private business will not compile , look at the record of mining environmental disasters in Yukon. All were approved by YSEB all provided scientifically backed mining submissions that would provided scientifically backed mining submissions that would mitigate any potential dangers. None followed through.”
- “1) Ability for Joe Citizen to see a problem and report it using the City Trouble Line or similar to get quick action from inspectors 2) significant penalties for non-compliance -- not just a fine but a suspension of work (which is likely pricier) 3) Relatively quick way to amend/update the tiers, especially if/when the territorial legislation is updated.”
- “Enforcement - How will CoW ensure that programs are following the conditions of their permits and what sort of actions can CoW take when Operators are failing to comply? Cumulative effects - how will CoW consider the cumulative effects of project footprints?”
- “There needs to be clear fines associated with each tier. At the court case for gladiator metals the environment fines... were a joke at best.”
- i’ve worked in mining and lands for 20+ years. every company abandons the projects and leaves environmental clean up and management costs to the public. get serious about collecting securities. yukon does not have a strong enough economy to support broken hopes and promises from mining and exploration when times are good

Desire to prohibit mining/exploration within the municipal boundary

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- “No mining within city limits. No conflicts of interest necessary. Yukon is a big place”
- “People live in these areas and mining is always a boom or bust situation. Now with this new government that is pro mining the city needs to step up and cancel all mining activities and claims in the city. It is 2026 not 1910. I believe the Yukon economy should focus on tourism and don’t put so much faith in mining in the end us citizens end up pay the price for a mining company that doesn’t care citizens end up pay the price for a mining company that doesn’t care what happens because the government lets them just walk away”
- “I don’t want any of these activities to occur within city limits so this Framework does not apply to my concerns...”
- “Framework is very confusing so I can't comment. Plus I don't support mining in the municipal city boundary”
- “No mining at all on city limit. Also mining is only linked with profit with reducing as much as possible the cost, so environment and health problem aren't really part of any mining project.”
- [redacted]. most people aren’t going to understand the information you’ve given them. I live near where these [redacted] are drilling I have to hear them every day they’re [redacted] about noise and where the water table is my well is at 25 feet easily within the area that they’re drilling into and yes ever time they drill a hole it [redacted] up my water I test it myself I know what's going on!!! WE WILL NEVER ALLOW ANY MINING ACTIVITIES IN THE AREAS LISTED ON THE MAPS The only reason you do exploratory mining is to open a mine Full stop revoke their permits and immediately ban mining within city limits!!!!

Tiered Framework structure: clarity, readability, and whether tiers are the right approach

- “Tier 5- Mine development. Its not possible to develop a mine with only a Class 4 exploration license. It requires a major mine license from YESAA. The differences between Tier 1 and Tier 4 are too small and should only reflect the differences between a Class 1 small and should only reflect the differences between a Class 1 grass roots exploration project and a class 3/4 exploration license. So likely you only need 3 tiers, one that matches Class 1, one that matches class 3/4 exploration, and one that matches opening a mine for production. It will simplify things”
- Not clear - the likelihood of one tier leading to the next tier without enough due process and consideration of the impact. Example you allow Tier 1 and 2 development but don’t consider or the public doesn’t necessarily consent to the fact that this could lead to Tier 5. By allowing tier 1 we are essentially saying that we are open to allowing tier 5. And that is not necessarily what people want in their backyard”
- “If Tier 1 or 2 are allowed, then Tier 5 must also be acceptable. Permitting exploration and then not allowing possible mining is not appropriate.”
- “All of the above”
- “None of this is clear. Even your questions are deceiving.”

Communications, engagement quality and accessibility

- “If you are going to provide a tiered Framework diagram then you have to make it big enough to read. This is basic visual communications principles. Additionally this

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engagement is lacking Public Engagement design knowledge such as those taught in the IAP2 certification for PE.”

- “because this is the only place to offer real, meaningful feedback, just wanted to say, you need a comms person to create a more accessible survey for the average lay person unless, this is lip service to push the [redacted] through, in which case, you’re nailing it. just do better, city of whitehorse. or try. i hope the other engagement was more accessible to the general public and First Nations
- “Finally, the fact that this survey does not provide space for comments on the general proposal but only curated select questions is very disappointing. I expect better from my local government.”

Remediation standards, reclamation, and long-term liabilities

- “remediation of access routes is not addressed in the plan.... in past experiences, there has been significant impacts to trail systems and user groups from activities related to exploration access.”
- “Clarity around the definition of remediation... essentially a gravel pit is remediated. I think we need higher standards, especially within city boundaries.”
- “Defining a process to appropriately compensate home owners for destroying and/or toxifying the landscape, property values and water resources around their house when the inevitable disaster occurs ala Eagle Gold Mine (except no one had a \$1M house impacted by that disaster). CoW is 420km² of 480,000km² to leave alone for residents should not be a big ask. 99.9% of the Yukon is open to mining, please leave this 0.1% alone so we don't destroy our environment, not to mention the houses we spent a lifetime paying for just to grab a few extra dollars for the short term”
- How the Mining companies will clean their mess: chemical and petroleum spills because it is happening all the times. It happened through the last century as least in the Yukon. Please look around Faro, Elsa, Dawson, Whitehorse and also most every communities in the Yukon. Wake up you guys, decision makers at the city!
- If any mining exploration or development is permitted within City limits (and it should not be), a substantial deposit from the company should be deposited with the city. There is too long a track record of mining companies making a mess and absconding with the profits, leaving the pollution to the taxpayer to clean up. Also, since this is the only opportunity I have to offer comments, I want to say: the population of Whitehorse will do nothing but expand in the coming years. It is foolish to allow mining within City limits when it is very likely that housing development will take place.
- “i’ve worked in mining and lands for 20+ years. every company abandons the projects and leaves environmental clean up and management costs to the public. get serious about collecting securities.”

Jurisdiction, duplication with Yukon rules and overreach concerns

- “Scrap these altogether and defer to the Quartz Act Class 1, 3 ... definitions and process.”
- “This is clearly a duplication of existing YG regulation. Mineral exploration is well regulated and is a temporary use of land that can be returned to previous state once exploration is completed. Most areas explored have no mineable deposits so the process of areas explored

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have no mineable deposits so the process of exploration specifically drilling is needed to determine if mineral values exist.”

- As for whether the tier differences are meaningful or not, I fail to see the need to redefine levels of exploration when this has already been done by YTG with exhaustive consultation. Although the different tiers clearly show an increasing level of impact, the fields are populated with features that assume that the current technology and knowledge base are fixed. Instead of the city prescribing the type of equipment to be used (ex: rubber-tracked equipment), it would be better to specify the end goal, for example little or no disturbance of vegetative mat. This would allow the use of skid mounted equipment in the winter, which should be considered based on the snow cover and not an arbitrary date like end of February. We are almost mid-march and have a solid snow cover that would allow operating under winter conditions for quite some time. Considering that exploration is a temporary use of the land, I find the 10 cm diameter threshold for tree cutting too strict. The duration limits seem irrelevant and just put additional and needless constraints. The duration of the YTG permit is more relevant. Mineral exploration requires access and although this needs to be managed, the YTG rules are very strict. We should not be afraid of creating access. Although remediation regulations are in place at the territorial level, we should be honest and remember that access created by the mining industry is what created the high recreation values of the Copperbelt. In general I find that this Framework needlessly duplicates the Mining Land Use Regulations. First Nations are already consulted at Class 1 level under MLUR. I’m not sure that backfilling of all drill holes is effective (at what?) or practical. Where is the justification for such a requirement?
- The Framework appears as a poor duplication of the Yukon Government quartz exploration classes [redacted] which are already legislated and governed by the Quartz Mining Act and YESAA. This points to the entire exercise being a duplication of process and a very likely overstep by the municipal government into an area that is under territorial, federal, and Yukon First Nation co-governance jurisdiction. The draft Framework reveals an apparent lack of knowledge of the current regulatory regime in the territory as well as a lack of understanding of mineral exploration more generally. I do not support this draft legislation as presented as it concerns me that as currently laid out, it both duplicates territorial procedures and legislation, and may open the municipality to legal action due to the apparent conflict between city jurisdiction and territorial jurisdiction. Finally, the fact that this survey does not provide space for comments on the general proposal but only curated select questions is very disappointing. I expect better from my local government.
- “Restrictions and requirements unnecessarily restrictive. Relatively low impact exploration is needed to determine the relatively few and specific locations deserving more advanced exploration.”
- “Not sure how to reply, but it seems to me that the City is over regulating exploration activities.”
- “As for whether the tier differences are meaningful or not, I fail to see the need to redefine levels of exploration when this has already been done by YTG with exhaustive consultation... [suggests outcome-based requirements vs prescribing equipment; argues

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Framework duplicates MLUR; questions backfilling drill holes; notes access created recreation values of Copperbelt]”

Land-use specifics: zoning exclusions, buffers, recreation and cumulative effects

- “Keep activity in municipal boundary to areas that were previously mined with exception to Ravens Ridge that now has residential development”
- “What would happen if a new dwelling permit was issued after a legacy drill hole with mineral potential was identified?”
- “Max width of rubber track/disturbance tier 1 & 2 to match existing min width of allowed access on existing trail (to prevent habitat damage) - define min width of existing trails they can use. I.e.: no single track. Minimum width and define it clearly with photo examples. - re zoning add “except green space and EZ”. Exclude those zones to all
- “The focus on exploration, without CLEARLY delineating where the surface footprint of future mining, waste, and disruption, is allowed within city limits is misleading to mining proponents and residents. If this is not clearly delineated, it is misleading to allow any exploration. Why would a company invest in exploration if the nearest allowable footprint is not commercially viable in relation to where a surface footprint is allowed? Allowing them to explore without establishing allowable mining footprint zones first is disingenuous for all involved. As it currently stands, if they find a good prospect, then they need to lobby for support of access to that ore, and the pressure upon citizens to allow random mine footprints to be developed will be endless. The “framework” for allowable exploration is a distraction from the ultimate downstream question of: where surface mine/waste/disruption footprint is allowable. Answer that first, and then the exploration can be addressed in a more informed and intelligent framework. End this bait and switch approach.

Climate / greenhouse gas emissions

- “Given the City's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from within the City's boundaries why is this important impact not included for consideration? See answer below as well as this applies.”
- “all mining triggers climate impacts ie greenhouse gas emissions. why is this not included for consideration? why has the City's Climate Action Plan not been included with the Official Community Plan for consideration?”

Political or economic framing

- “This is a make work project for bureaucrats, not an economic enabler that protects residents”
- “When you allow explorations the decision about allowing a mine is already made. So dont allow it in terms of land use. Force YG to actually implement the treaties for land use planning. The Yukon Party version of YG is already pulling back on co developing mining legislation w YFN, and they will be beholden to their funders, ie mining lobby. So circumvent this YP behavior by working with KDFN and TKC much more closely and get proper, legal land use planning done. This piece meal stuff creates one fait accompli after another.

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- “bordering on expropriation and no doubt the City will brought into line by the EMR”