

**Yukon Mineral Exploration Program
(YMEP)
Placer Module Guidebook 2023**



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Purpose

The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program (YMEP) is a funding program designed to support individuals and companies exploring for mineral occurrences by reimbursing a portion of the risk capital required to explore. This program is not intended to offset the costs of production.

This guidebook is designed to provide general information on the YMEP Placer Module, including the application process and the requirements for reporting. Detailed information is provided in the appendices. All other pertinent information (YMEP Application for Funding, Expense Claim, Project Status Report and Final Submission Form) can be obtained by emailing ymep@yukon.ca or geology@yukon.ca.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Yukon Geological Survey staff (ymep@yukon.ca) with any questions they have about the program or its administration.

Applicants must ensure that all permits, licenses, notifications and other authorizations are in place before exploration work proceeds, and that all work undertaken complies with existing laws and regulations. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of an applicant's funding agreement.

Funding is not automatic and is not allocated on a first come, first served basis. Applications are evaluated using a set of evaluation criteria, and funding will be allocated based on scores. Evaluators will base scores only on information provided in the application and accompanying proposal. While evaluation criteria have historically been based on the quality of the application irrespective of commodity, Yukon government wishes to stimulate exploration for critical minerals to help advance the territory toward its renewable energy targets. To that end, 2023 evaluation criteria have been modified to provide extra points for projects targeting critical minerals (see Appendix C). Yukon Geological Survey (YGS) welcomes feedback on ways to strategically target critical minerals with YMEP.

Individual prospectors, private companies and public companies can all apply under the Placer Module. The maximum funding level and proportion of matching funds for Placer grants are re-evaluated annually. Module details are summarized below.

Changes of note to YMEP for 2023

1. Scoring criteria update to include a critical minerals component
2. Payment schedule updates
3. Mandatory digital data submission

Key dates

Key dates associated with this program are as follows:

March 31	Application submission deadline. Applications must be received at the YGS office by 11:59 pm local time on March 31. Applications can be submitted by email (ymp@yukon.ca), via secure file drop (https://sft.gov.yk.ca/filedrop/YMEP), dropped off in person via hard drive, or sent by courier or post. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.
September 30	Project Status Report due and optional initial expense claim up to 60% of final payout.
January 31	Technical Report (or Summary Report), Final Expense Claim and Final Submission Form due. Some exemptions may apply (see Appendix D).

Critical minerals change

Given the growing need for critical minerals to support renewable energy development, the Yukon government would like to stimulate exploration for new resources of these commodities. Evaluation criteria for YMEP have been modified to reflect this, by assigning extra points to projects targeting critical minerals. All minerals (critical or not) are still eligible for YMEP funding; however, the evaluation criteria are weighted to give a modest advantage to critical mineral exploration projects. Canada's critical mineral list can be found here: [The Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy - Canada.ca](#).

Payment schedule change

In previous years, funding agreements included a provision for monthly payments upon submission of invoices. Grants for hardrock projects will now be paid in up to two installments. The initial payment can be requested September 30 with up to 60% of total project expenditures reimbursed when accompanied by a Project Status Report. The second, and final, payment will be upon submission and approval of the Expense Claim, Final Submission Form and Final Report. The deadline for final submissions is January 31 of the calendar year following award of the grant.

YMEP placer module summary table

	Placer
Funding	Maximum \$40 000
Reimbursement rate	Up to 50% of eligible expenses
Intent of work	To evaluate and advance new and existing placer targets
Who is it for?	Placer miners, prospectors, geologists, companies, partnerships; includes projects with total exploration expenditures of less than \$300 000
Where can work proceed?	Claims, leases, or Crown land
Project status report requirements	Brief written summary of activities and expenses to date
Final report requirements	Final submission form and expense claim, as well as Technical Report as described in Appendix D
Holdback	40% holdback until submission and review of final report
Reporting deadlines	Application submission: March 31 Interim status report: September 30 Final report: January 31 of following calendar year
Confidentiality	Final reports will be kept confidential for 2 years
Eligible expenses	See text below for eligible and ineligible expenses; refer to Appendix B for Expense Rate Guideline
Non-eligible expenses	Recording fees, management fees, costs of applying for permits or licenses, project planning and compilation, legal fees, promotional expenses, transportation outside Yukon, underground work, preparation for mining, mining, acquisitions, repairs
Machinery	Use of light or heavy equipment allowed
Compliance	Applicants must ensure that all permits and authorizations are in place and that their work programs satisfy existing laws and regulations

Eligibility and funding limits

To be eligible for YMEP funding, exploration expenditures for the entire property/project must not exceed \$300 000 for a given funding year. A contiguous claim block may not be broken into smaller blocks to make a project fit under the \$300 000 threshold. If a successful applicant initiates a project under the \$300 000 threshold, then raises additional funds that put them above this threshold, they are required to notify YGS of their additional funds.

A maximum of \$250 000 of cumulative YMEP funding can be assigned to one property over its lifetime, regardless of ownership of the property.

Applicants can submit more than one proposal, and may have more than one proposal funded. However, one applicant cannot receive more than \$150 000 of total YMEP funding per season. Individuals having a personal or working relationship are considered a single applicant (e.g., spouses, relatives, coworkers, employees applying on behalf of a company, etc.).

Projects will not receive funding if the area they propose to work is not accessible for exploration. Applicants who have failed to acquire appropriate permits and authorizations on past projects will be denied funding for a minimum of 2 years at the discretion of YGS.

Applicant eligibility

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- individuals must be nineteen years of age or older (defined as the age of majority in Yukon), and a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant;
- companies must be registered to do business in Yukon, or be funding the work program on claims that have been optioned or joint-ventured to companies registered to do business in Yukon; and
- contractors involved in the project must be legal entities in good standing with the right to contract in Yukon.

Applicants must also:

- have a Canadian mailing address;
- be eligible to stake mineral claims in Yukon as governed by the Yukon Placer Mining Act;
- have a prospecting or exploration target for any of the mineral commodities defined in the above legislation; and
- submit a completed Application for Funding form and Prospecting or Exploration Proposal to work on Yukon lands where they have the legal right to prospect or conduct exploration (e.g., Crown land, staked or leased ground, etc.).

Program requirements

The applicant is responsible for ensuring that proper permitting is in place and that work programs comply with the laws of general application, particularly those related to mining, water, notifications, land use and environmental regulations.

The exploration program must conform to the work plan outlined in the Application for Funding and the Prospecting or Exploration Proposal (Appendix A). The YGS must approve significant changes to the work program before expenses are incurred. **Significant changes to a work program without prior approval may result in a refusal to reimburse unapproved expenses.**

Eligible expenses

The following activities are eligible for reimbursement if they have been approved in the work plan. Rates of reimbursement are based on the Rate Guideline in Appendix B:

- conventional exploration work according to industry best-practice standards
- travel within Yukon up to 25% of eligible expenses
- assays and analyses
- shipping costs
- wages (where applicable) and WCB for employees/contractors
- equipment rental and mob/demob charges
- daily field expenses
- fuel for exploration
- claim staking up to 20% of eligible expenses
- reclamation expenses

- where permitted, trail/road building up to 10% of eligible expenses
- report preparation up to 5% of eligible expenses
- equipment rentals
- drilling
- trenching
- test pitting
- shafting
- reclamation
- sampling and processing of samples
- geophysical surveys
- remote sensing (e.g., lidar, photogrammetry, etc.)

*For rates not listed in Rate Guidelines, contact YGS.

Non-eligible expenses

- expenses not approved in the original work plan
- project planning and compilation of existing data
- costs related to acquiring, recording, grouping, renewing, transferring or maintaining an interest in a mineral property
- costs of applying for permits or licenses
- management, disbursement, accounting or legal fees
- promotional expenses
- office costs
- contingency
- transportation and staking costs in excess of amounts listed above
- transportation outside Yukon
- preparation for mining or expenses related to active mining
- acquisitions or construction of fixed assets
- repairs and time allocated for repairs
- property evaluations or target generation costs
- cost of bulk sampling adjacent to areas of active mining
- costs associated with preparing the Application for Funding

Application procedure

YMEP applications consist of an Application for Funding form and Prospecting or Exploration Proposal (see Appendix A for details).

The deadline for applications is 11:59 pm local time March 31. Submit applications via email (ymep@yukon.ca), secure file drop (<https://sft.gov.yk.ca/filedrop.YMEP>), by mail, or in person. Details are provided in the Contact section.

The Application for Funding for can be obtained from YGS (ymep@yukon.ca) or online at [Apply for mineral exploration funding | Government of Yukon](#). Please note that all sections of the form must be completed.

When evaluating an application, reviewers will only consider the information provided in the application and accompanying proposal. Applicants should ensure that all pertinent information needed to evaluate the project is included in their submission.

Priority will be given to placer exploration targets that have had limited to no previous development history. Exploration will be allowed on claims that are being actively mined, however, the proposal must demonstrate that there is no overlap between exploration and production by clarifying which activities are related to exploration and which are part of the mining operation. Any proposed 'cost sharing' between mining and exploration activities (e.g., rental of equipment used for both activities) must be clearly described in the proposal.

To ensure that placer module funding is used for exploration and not mining, bulk sampling is strongly discouraged near claims with current or previous placer production. Bulk sampling of newly discovered pay gravel may be permitted; however, the maximum allowable tonnage will be determined on a case-by-case basis, requiring prior approval by YGS.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek advice from YGS if they have questions about the application process or their project. Applicants are encouraged to submit drafts of their Application Form and Proposal or discuss their plans with YGS staff ahead of the application submission deadline, as they can benefit from feedback on their proposal. No additions or changes to applications will be considered after the application submission deadline.

As per the Government of Yukon Health & Safety guidelines, YGS may decline to provide advice if a proponent uses abusive or threatening language or behaves unprofessionally. Individuals or representatives of companies who engage in this type of behavior may be banned from the YMEP program indefinitely.

Evaluation process

A team of YGS geologists reviews applications and assigns scores. Evaluation criteria are provided in Appendix C. Scores are the primary factor used to assign funding, although other factors (e.g., balance between modules, applying a cap to the number of funded projects for one applicant) will be considered.

The amount of available funding varies from year to year, and the allocation of funds between modules is not fixed. Efforts will be made to ensure the proportion of funds allocated to hardrock versus placer projects reflects the proportion of eligible hardrock versus placer applications.

The Yukon Geological Survey may refuse an application if the applicant:

- has shown poor performance and/or reporting on previous YMEP programs;
- has failed to pay contractors for invoices on any Yukon projects;
- is in default of any Yukon government (YG) grant, loan, permit, etc.;
- is in non-compliance of a water license anywhere in Yukon;
- refuses to allow YGS access to the project area;
- proposes a project within an area identified by Yukon government or the Federal government as a Study Area for National or Territorial Parks, or Special Management Areas as outlined by the Umbrella Final Agreement; or
- proposed a project on a creek that is not eligible for a Yukon Placer Authorization as defined by the Yukon Placer Secretariat.

Past performance

The YMEP evaluation criteria include a “Past Performance” score equivalent to 10% of the total score (see Appendix C). This score is determined by evaluating an applicant’s previously funded YMEP projects, adherence to reporting deadlines, the quality of field performance, and the final report. For applicants who have never received a grant, the “Past Performance” score will be calculated by averaging the “Past Performance” scores of all applicants for that year.

Conditions of funding

Best efforts will be made to announce funding decisions by May 15. Successful applicants will be offered a YMEP grant. By accepting the grant, applicants agree:

- to sign a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) with the Government of Yukon and abide by its conditions;
- to notify YGS of their schedule of work in order to arrange a field visit;
- to allow their name and approximate location of the project released to the public (see Release of Information section below);
- to submit a Project Status Report to YGS by September 30;
- to fulfill all YMEP reporting requirements by January 31¹, including:
 - ✓ Final Submission Form
 - ✓ Final Expense Claim
 - ✓ Technical or Summary Report (Report will include detailed technical information as outlined in Appendix D of this document and Schedule B of the contribution agreement); and
- to allow the Final Technical or Summary Report to be publicly released two years after the submission deadline.

Failure to abide by these requirements may result in forfeiture or reduction in payments.

¹ With prior approval, the January 31 reporting deadline may be pushed back to accommodate winter work.

Expense claims and reimbursement

Expense claims can be paid in up to two installments. The initial installment can be requested September 30 and be submitted with a Project Status Report: up to 60% of submitted expenditures will be reimbursed at that time. Final expense claims are to be submitted with the final technical report on or before January 31 of the calendar year following the grant award. Recipients must fill out an Expense Claim and submit copies of receipts. The Expense Claim is available online at <https://yukon.ca/en/mineral-exploration-funding> or via email at ymep@yukon.ca.

Expenses must be listed in detail. Copies of receipts are required for all claimed expenses that involve a payment, including wages paid out. No receipts are required for those expenses related to daily field expenses, mileage rate (if used) and private rental of (use of own) equipment.

Release of information

Successful applicants shall agree to have the following information released to the public upon completion of application review:

- business contact information;
- project name;
- approximate location (if on claims, 1:50 000 NTS map sheet; if off claims, 1:250 000 map sheet); and
- program module.

Additionally, successful applicants shall agree to allow YGS to publicly release their final reports, including project expenses, two years after the submission deadline. Release will be through the EMR library (<https://yukon.ca/en/science-and-natural-resources/research-and-monitoring/visit-energy-mines-and-resources-library>).

Appeal process

Unsuccessful applicants who wish to appeal the decision will have until June 30 of the program year to initiate the process by contacting the YGS (ymep@yukon.ca). Two government geologists not involved in the initial assessment will review the application using the same rating system and the original Application for Funding and Prospecting or Exploration Proposal. No new information will be considered during the appeal process.

Contact information

Yukon Geological Survey
ph: (867) 456-3828
email: ymep@gov.yk.ca
secure file drop: <https://sft.gov.yk.ca/filedrop/YMEP>

Mailing Address:

PO Box 2703 (K-102)
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Physical Address:

102-300 Main Street Whitehorse, Yukon

Appendix A - Prospecting or exploration proposal requirements

A complete application for YMEP funding should contain the following information within the Prospecting or Exploration Proposal.

Location

Include a description of the project location, and location map(s), figure(s), or photographs of project area(s). The map(s) should include:

- current claims or leases, if applicable
- proposed claims or leases
- exploration area if outside any claims or leases
- access routes
- camp locations

Geological description

Include a description of the regional, local geology and/or surficial geology as appropriate. Include any relevant maps, figures, or photos.

Previous exploration work

A description of historic work done on the project if applicable:

- regional data and their significance to current models;
- summary of relevant previous work including regional and property-scale prospecting, drilling, trenching, etc.;
- a summary of previous significant results; and
- attach maps or figures illustrating significant historic exploration activities and results (compilation maps).

Exploration target

A description of the exploration target should include:

- targeted commodities and/or minerals;
- deposit type and relevant geology; and
- a rationale for your project.

Project work plan

A detailed description of the proposed work plan, including:

- proposed start date, end date and sequence of work;
- number of working days planned for each activity;
- number of workers;
- location of work (include a map);
- logistics;
- equipment;
- permit/license approval(s); and

- planned work activities – these could include, but are not limited to:
 - ✓ prospecting
 - ✓ geophysical surveys
 - ✓ shafting, test pitting
 - ✓ drilling
 - ✓ photogrammetry surveys (Lidar, drone, topographic modeling)
 - ✓ sampling (amount and type)
 - ✓ reclamation or other actions intended to reduce environmental impact

Appendix B – Expense rate guidelines

YMEP rate guidelines

Check with YGS for pre-approval for any items not listed below. Copies of receipts are required for re-imbusement as indicated.

Eligible Expense	Amount		Comments
	max/day	receipts required	
Daily field expenses	\$100/day/person		food, camp costs, packs, sampling equipment (shovels, augers, etc.), GPS, radios, sat phones, camera, computer, printer, internet, firearm, pre- approved consumables (sample bags, flagging tape, tags, lath, tents, cooking gear, spray paint, claim posts, etc.)
Wages			
Labourer	up to \$275/day		
Technician	up to \$350/day		
Senior Geologist (P.Geo or equivalent) or Engineer	up to \$500/day		
Supervisor	up to \$500/day		
Junior Geologist	up to \$400/day		
WCB	as per receipt		
Air travel within Yukon			
Air travel within Yukon		as per invoice	
Assays		as per invoice	
Shipping of samples		as per invoice	
Reclamation		as per invoice	refers to costs not already included in machine time or wages
Report	reasonable cost to a maximum of 5% of eligible claim		
Claim staking		as per invoice	includes staking costs and air travel to a maximum of 20% of eligible claim
Fuel		as per invoice	
Equipment Rental	Self-Owned	Commercial Rental Agency (with invoice including GST)*	Includes
Heavy equipment	75% of commercial rate	as per invoice	wet rate; includes fuel and operator; must indicate make, model, year, size category, specialized accessories
Drilling	75% of commercial rate	as per invoice	
Truck within Yukon	\$0.60/km	as per invoice	includes fuel, insurance, maintenance, etc.; up to 2 long-distance round trips per 30 days of field work; daily commuting to field area if approved in work plan
	OR		
	\$50/day	as per invoice	

Eligible Expense	Amount		Comments
	max/day	receipts required	
ATV	\$50/day	as per invoice	includes insurance, maintenance, etc.
ATV tub trailer	\$10/day	as per invoice	includes insurance, maintenance, etc.
Transport trailer	\$25/day	as per invoice	includes insurance, maintenance, etc.
Earth moving equipment (loader, bulldozer, etc.)	75% of commercial rate	as per invoice	includes insurance, maintenance, etc.
Pumps	75% of commercial rate	as per invoice	includes insurance, maintenance, etc.
Generator	\$15/day	as per invoice	includes insurance, maintenance, etc.
Lidar survey		as per invoice	
Drone imagery	\$200/line kilometre surveyed	as per receipt	includes georeferencing and processing of data. Rates may vary with approval from YGS
Geophysical surveys	75% of commercial rate	as per receipt	includes processing and interpretation of data (and report if applicable)

* based on Whitehorse commercial rental rates

** based on YG rates; the Third Party Equipment Rentals guide.

Appendix C – Application evaluation criteria

Project proposal (total points: 20)

Quality of work plan – 10 points

The score is based on the documented work plan and how well it outlines the proposed work. For example, how well described and logical is the work plan? Is it cost effective? Is the work plan appropriate given the geology/terrain/exploration target?

Quality of the exploration proposal – 10 points

The score is based solely on information included in the application. For example, has a deposit model been referenced? Have existing data been summarized and evaluated? Has previous work been considered?

Experience of applicant/past performance (total points: 5)

Includes the applicant, as well as any employees, contractors and partners.

The score is based on the average performance score from previous YMEP projects, or, for new applicants and personnel/contractors with no previous YMEP history, the average score of all applicants in a given year will be assigned to avoid any scoring bias.

Target considerations (total points: 20)

Exploration plan – 15 points

The score is based on the target being geologically reasonable and appropriate for Yukon. For example, porphyry copper deposits are most likely to occur in areas with coeval volcanic rocks. In addition, the exploration plan for the project must be appropriate for the target. For example, high-grade vein deposits have smaller foot prints than bulk tonnage deposits and the exploration plan for each should have different approaches.

Target commodity – 5 points

The score for target commodity is broken down into three categories: five points for a project that primarily focuses on at least one critical mineral; three points for a project where the primary target is not a critical mineral but critical minerals are part of the exploration plan; and zero points to projects that do not include a critical mineral in their exploration plan.

Note: a maximum of 20 points will be assigned for targets that include critical minerals (Canada's critical mineral list can be found in the Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy: [The Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy - Canada.ca](#)). For projects that are not targeting critical minerals, a maximum of 15 points will be awarded for the target consideration criteria.

Potential for success (total points: 5)

The evaluation is based on determining what potential the project has to result in additional investment and, if successful, is the target likely to see further exploration and/or development?

Appendix D – Requirements for final technical report

In order to receive the final payment, proponents are required to submit three documents to the YGS:

1. Final Expense Claim
2. Final Submission Form
3. Technical Report

These documents are due on or before January 31, unless the proponent has been granted an extension (e.g., to accommodate a winter drilling or shafting program). Incomplete and/or late reporting may result in reduction of your contribution and/or may render you ineligible for future YMEP funding. Failure to meet the final reporting requirements will result in forfeiture of your contribution and affect your future eligibility for funding.

This appendix provides general guidelines on the requirements for the final Technical Report for placer projects. Schedule B of the proponent's Transfer Payment Agreement may include additional reporting requirements.

Final Technical report format requirements

Final Technical and Summary reports are to be submitted in Portable Document Format (.pdf) with analytical data in tabular format (e.g., .xls or .csv, etc.). Geophysical data and imagery must be submitted in digital format (e.g., .csv, .xls, .gdb, .ecw etc.). They can be submitted via email or uploaded via the secure file drop: <https://sft.gov.yk.ca/filedrop/YMEP>. Proponents who wish to submit in other digital formats should consult with YGS before submitting, as YGS may be able to assist with formatting.

Final Technical report content requirements

Final Reports must document the work performed and the results of the work. The results can be presented in map and/or table format. The quality and content of the report and maps will be assessed as part of your Performance Score.

The following information should be included in the report:

1. General Information:
 - a) project location (with map);
 - b) dates work was performed;
 - c) all persons and contractors working on the project; and
 - d) conclusions and recommendations.
2. Geological prospecting:
 - a) map showing locations where samples and/or data were collected; and
 - b) descriptions of samples, stratigraphy, etc.; and
 - c) photos as appropriate.
3. Geophysical surveys:
 - a) description of the survey methods and equipment used;
 - b) number and locations of stations (GPS coordinates);

- c) geophysical data (spreadsheet format with station locations and readings); and
 - d) maps and/or profiles illustrating the data in graphic format;
 - e) interpretation of results
4. Trenching, shafting, test pitting:
- a) description of the equipment used;
 - b) a map illustrating the locations of excavations relative to the local topography and claim or lease borders);
 - c) GPS locations of all workings from program;
 - d) volume and description of material excavated (e.g., stratigraphic profile, thickness, texture, grade, photographs); and
 - e) description of sample processing procedure;
 - f) analytical results of all samples.
5. Drilling:
- a) type of drill;
 - b) map showing locations of drill holed relative to local topography and claim/ lease boundaries;
 - c) table with drill hole information (including collar location, logs, depth, orientation of hole;
 - d) information on sampling and processing procedure;
 - e) results of any analyses completed (e.g., grades); and
 - f) a summary outlining the objectives, results and recommendations of the drill program.
6. Photogrammetry or LiDAR surveys:
- a) description of the survey specifications e.g., height, flight paths, type of data);
 - b) locations used to georeference survey (GPS coordinates);
 - c) georeferenced image(s) generated from the survey, including digital data; and
 - d) a map showing the interpreted features identified from the data (e.g., benches, floodplain, paleochannels, contours, etc.).
7. Reclamation work:
- a) description of the reclamation work undertaken;
 - b) map showing reclaimed area
 - c) description of the work completed; and
 - d) before and after photographs of the reclaimed area.

For other types of work, please consult YGS for reporting requirements.

