



YEAR IN REVIEW 2022-23



**Council of Yukon
First Nations**



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MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND CHIEF



This fiscal year CYFN celebrated a major milestone for Yukon First Nations as February 14, 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the presentation of Together Today for our Children Tomorrow in Ottawa by Yukon First Nations Chiefs. To mark the occasion, CYFN hosted Potlatch Week - a weeklong schedule of events for all ages at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre in Whitehorse. CYFN extends its sincere gratitude to the staff, contractors, and Yukon First Nations who contributed to the many events offered to the public during the Potlatch Week celebration.

The planned CYFN Family Preservation Wellness Centre is now under construction as this fiscal year saw the completion of the land transfer at 10 Eldorado Drive by Yukon government, successful navigation of the City permitting process, the hiring of a Director for the centre, and selection of the general contractor following the tender process. Construction of the centre is slated for completion in fall 2024.

CYFN continues to provide services and advocate for Yukon First Nations in areas where our people are over-represented within the dominant system. We accomplish this by working with partners, such as Connective. CYFN has partnered with Connective to provide cultural supports at the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter, and on other projects such as the Housing First residence, and the newly established Women's Supported Housing and Reintegration Unit. CYFN's work to provide culturally appropriate programming and supports has been widely acknowledged for its positive impact.

Our Health Department launched a project to address period poverty among Yukon First Nations by providing free menstrual products at Yukon schools, Yukon First Nations offices, and at various NGO locations. Providing convenient access to free menstrual products brings awareness to this issue and helps to address a form of inequity that our people face and that is often not acknowledged. The department also supported 150 Yukon First Nations to attend substance-use treatment centres during the fiscal year and helped countless others by providing counselling services through the hiring of 6 Yukon First Nations clinical counsellors.

The Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship celebrated a milestone graduation of its youth fellows during CYFN's 50th anniversary celebrations. The youth presented the culmination of their collaborative work, the Reconnection Vision, to Yukon First Nations Chiefs as part of the ceremony, signaling the completion of their mandate passed to them by the Chiefs for a youth-led solution to the climate change crisis.

The Yukon Native Language Centre rounded out its Youth Today, Language Leaders Tomorrow program that began in 2021 to develop fluent youth speakers of Yukon First Nations languages after a one-year funding extension. The program saw the graduation of 11 Yukon First Nations youth who earned Diplomas in Indigenous Language Proficiency in June of this year. I raise my hands to these dedicated youth on the momentous accomplishment they have made in reclaiming their traditional languages and inspiring others in their language learning pursuits.

It is an honour to continue to serve as Grand Chief for the Council of Yukon First Nations after my acclamation for a third term and swearing in ceremony during CYFN's General Assembly last summer at Minto Landing. I am fortunate to work with such a dedicated team of staff who are passionate in pursuing CYFN's mission to support Yukon First Nations in many areas.

Gunat̨chish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Johnston'.

Peter Johnston, GRAND CHIEF

VISION

BACKGROUND

In the late 1960s, Yukon First Nations Chiefs began to organize to protect the rights, titles, and interests of Yukon First Nations people. Many advancements have been made and the landscape is very different than it was then. What started as a land claims negotiations organization eventually evolved to become what we are today. As Yukon First Nations continue to build their own internal capacity, the need for CYFN to support Yukon First Nations continues – however the original founding purpose has not.

The Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) will do what it has always done best and what Yukon First Nation originally came together to do: protect and advance the rights, title, and interests of Yukon First Nations. With the guidance of Leadership, CYFN will strive to adhere to the following:

PRINCIPLES

- Collaboration
- Inclusivity
- Sharing
- Collective authority
- Political power

VISION

Together Today for our Children Tomorrow

MISSION

CYFN protects and advances rights, title and interests of First Nations holding traditional territories in the Yukon.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE



CYFN's Executive Office consists of the political branch represented by the Grand Chief and the administrative branch represented by the Executive Director. The Grand Chief is the political spokesperson for CYFN. The Executive Director leads CYFN's internal administration and operations through the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The Executive Office supports intergovernmental relations by facilitating meetings involving Yukon First Nations at Leadership and between Yukon First Nations, the Government of Yukon, and the Government of Canada at the Yukon Forum and the Intergovernmental Forum.



LEADERSHIP

Leadership meets every six to eight weeks to discuss areas of mutual interest and political importance. Leadership directs CYFN's political action through the passing of motions and resolutions.

In October 2022, the Taku River Tlingit First Nation became an associate member of CYFN. CYFN saw participation at Leadership from many Yukon First Nations, including White River First Nation, Liard First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, associate member Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Tetlit Gwich'in Council. CYFN continues to encourage all Yukon First Nations to attend Leadership.

- Intergovernmental Forum with Yukon First Nations Chiefs, territorial and federal Ministers
- Annual Salmon Ceremony and Gathering in Little Salmon Carmacks Traditional Territory
- Governor General Mary Simon
- NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh and MLA Kate White
- Federal Minister Bennett
- Federal Minister Hajdu
- DFO Minister Joyce Murray
- Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment



- Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation 25th Anniversary of self-government
- Ta'an Kwäch'än Council 20th Anniversary of self-government
- Grand Chief to join Teslin Tlingit Council and Trondëk Hwech'in First Nation and Selkirk First Nation General Assemblies

2022-23 LEADERSHIP DATES

- May 3-4, 2022
- June 27-29, 2022
- October 11, 2022
- January 18-19, 2023
- March 14-15, 2023

POLITICAL ADVOCACY

- CYFN regularly invites representatives of Governments of Yukon and Canada to meet with Leadership to discuss areas of importance to Yukon First Nations.
- Premier Sandy Silver provided an overview of the pan-northern statement
- Intergovernmental Forum with federal Ministers
- Minister Ranj Pillai discussed his team's work around the Arctic Arts Summit and Housing
- New Premier Ranj Pillai came for an informal meet and greet breakfast
- Roundtable on Bill C21 with Minister Mendicino

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- CYFN also invites community partners to meet with Leadership.
- Yukon University President Leslie Brown and Robin Bradasch presented their strategic plan
- Safe at Home and Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition provided an overview of their activities
- Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Jesse Kancir gave an update on the COVID situation
- RCMP Superintendent Dak Dara and Inspector Lindsay Ellis provided an overview of the mobile crisis pilot project
- AFN Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse joined a meeting regarding AIP Child Welfare Compensation
- Yukon Salmon Strategy with AFN Yukon and Yukon First Nations Salmon Stewardship Alliance
- Chiefs Committee on Education update on First Nations School Board by Melanie Bennett
- Hosted advisory group for the social lab
- Update on the Youth Climate Action Fellowship graduation plan
- Land Use Planning Council provided a presentation
- Communities Building Youth Futures Yukon presented an overview

2022/23 LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- 50th anniversary celebration of Together Today for our Children Tomorrow
- Leadership was briefed on the Yukon First Nations Salmon Stewardship Alliance
- CYFN Legal Counsel provided an update on successor legislation
- Arctic and Northern Policy Framework partner chapter briefing
- Yukon First Nations Healing Centre Project update
- Long-term reform to First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle vision
- Chiefs' retreat created space and dialogue for next steps
- Briefing on Putting People First healthcare system transformation
- Grief and Gratitude ceremony
- Yukon First Nation information governance update
- Institute of Indigenous Self Determination strategy presentation

YUKON FORUM

The Yukon Forum was established in 2004 and renewed in January 2017 with the signing of the Working Together Declaration that calls for the creation of a five-year action plan on shared priorities.

It is a political gathering of the leaders of Yukon First Nations governments and the Government of Yukon that meets quarterly with the aim of fostering reconciliation, developing strong government-to-government relations, and advancing shared priorities.

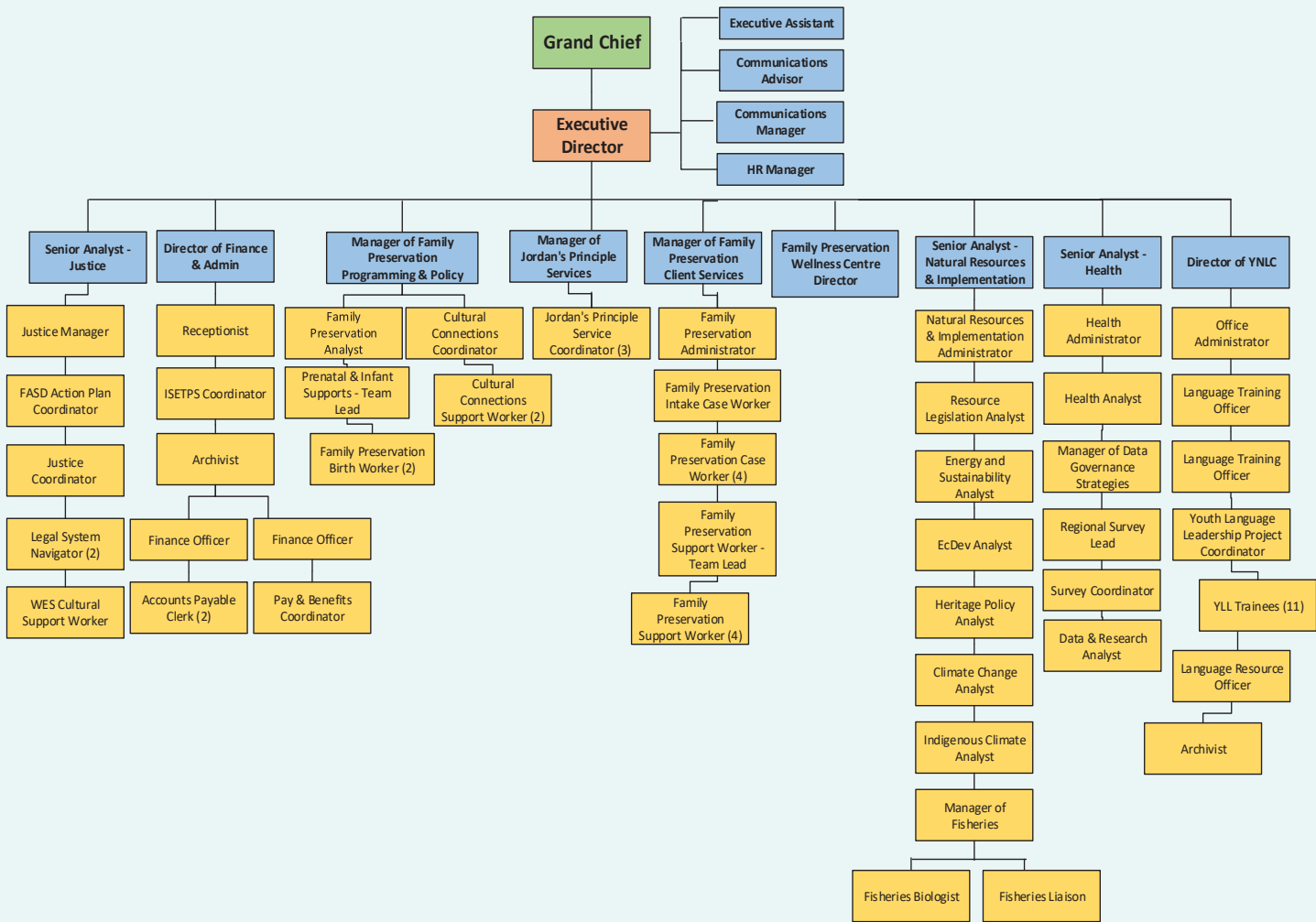
2022-23 YUKON FORUM DATES

- June 4, 2023 Old Crow
- October 7, 2022 Whitehorse
- November 29, 2022 Carcross
- March 31, 2023 Haines Junction

YUKON FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discussed MMIWG2+ strategy
- Climate Change and Renewable Energy
- Sexualized Assault Response Team
- Housing
- Joint Priorities and Action Plan
- Co-governance and the Wildlife Act
- Yukon Days
- Yukon Oil and Gas Act decision
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action report
- Energy transition
- Substance use health emergency
- Leader's retreat





HUMAN RESOURCES

As of May 2023, there are 85 people employed by CYFN.

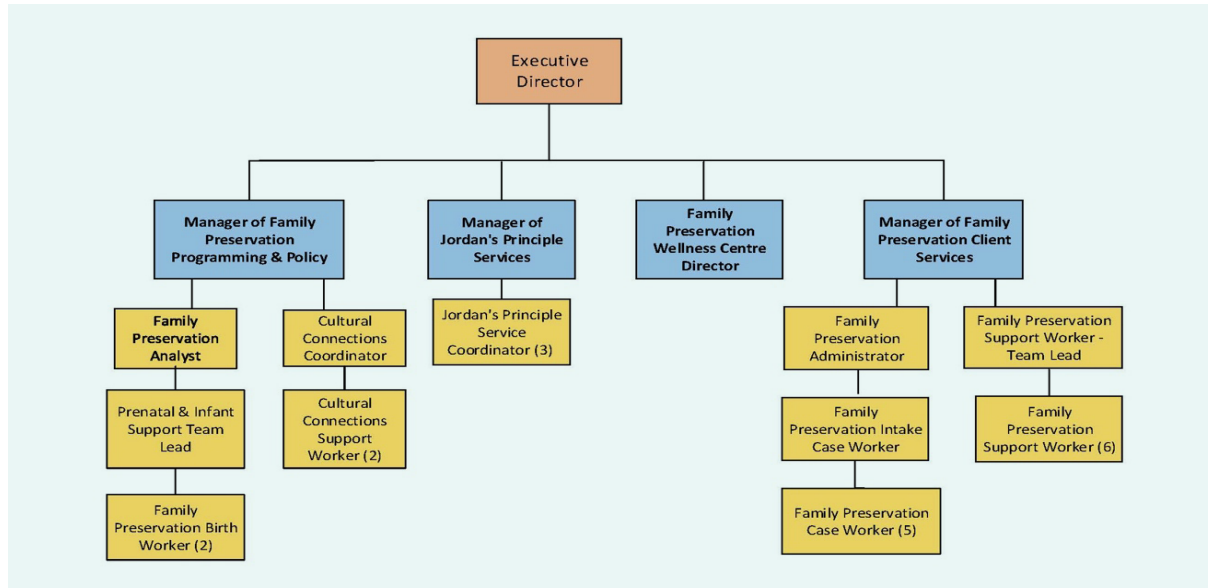
- 65 (76%) are Indigenous
- 56 (66%) are Yukon First Nations
- 51 employees are permanent
- 27 are term employees
- 10 are auxiliary-on-call employees
- 8 are on temporary assignments from Yukon government

CYFN continues to work on standardizing and updating HR processes and policies to ensure we are in line with current labour standards and best workplace practices.



FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

CYFN created Family Preservation Services in 2019 to provide Yukon First Nations with support in advocacy, services, and navigation of the child welfare system. Family Preservation Services moved into its own building at 206 Alexander Street around the corner from CYFN during the 2021-22 fiscal year. During the 2022-23 fiscal year, CYFN expanded the staffing of the client services unit to support the growing number of families seeking support.



HEALING THROUGH OUR WAYS GATHERING

In October 2022, CYFN Family Preservation Services hosted a two-day “Healing Through Our Ways - A Preventative Approach to Family Strengthening” gathering. The event brought together First Nations families and staff, caregivers, social workers, and other frontline workers to explore themes related to incorporating First Nations cultural ways into family services systems.

CYFN was honoured to welcome Dr. Cindy Blackstock at the keynote speaker at the event. Dr. Blackstock is a child welfare activist and Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada.

FAMILY PRESERVATION WELLNESS CENTRE

CYFN is leading the development of the Family Preservation Wellness Centre on behalf of Yukon First Nations to provide safe and secure temporary housing for women and children fleeing abuse. During the 2022-23 fiscal year, a media conference was held to mark the completion of the transfer of land for the project located at 10 Eldorado Drive in Whistlebend from Yukon government to CYFN. In the last quarter of the fiscal year, the tender was released and a Director was hired in preparation for groundbreaking and construction slated to begin in summer 2023.

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle that ensures all First Nations children living in Canada can access the products, services, and supports they need, when they need them. During the 2022-23 fiscal year, there were 1,212 Jordan's Principle requests submitted through CYFN, amounting to \$5,494,136.

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE SYMPOSIUM

CYFN hosted a two-day Jordan's Principle Symposium in May 2022. We were honoured to welcome Jordan River Anderson's family over the two days of the symposium. They were able to hear firsthand about the impact that Jordan's Principle has had on the lives of Yukon First Nations families from across Yukon.

CLIENT SERVICES

Family Preservation Services at CYFN focuses on providing support to Yukon First Nations and Indigenous families. Our aim is both preventative supports/services as well as helping families navigate Yukon Government's complex Family and Children's Services system.

CYFN Family Preservation meets with individuals requiring navigation and support. Our team attends meetings with individuals or families that request our support. We focus on system navigation support and advocacy for cultural and family connections. In addition to the 100 families that our Family Preservation team was actively working with during the 2021-22 fiscal year, 158 new files to support First Nations families were opened during the 2022-23 fiscal year. Direct client services provided by the Family Preservation team are shaped by the unique needs of each family.

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS PROGRAMMING

The Cultural Connections Program provides monthly programming for Yukon First Nations children, youth, families, women, and men. The purpose of Cultural Connections programming is to support and safeguard connection to culture and community for Yukon First Nations and Indigenous children involved in the child welfare system. Cultural Connections programming provides opportunities for participants to connect to their community, family, and Yukon First Nations culture.

The Cultural Connections program offers a variety of cultural activities such as making traditional medicines, sewing, and beading, snowshoeing, learning about trapping, ice fishing, drum making and time on the land. These programs are led by Yukon First Nation instructors and Elders.



HEALTH

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CYFN
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CYFN advocates on behalf of all Yukon First Nations in matters pertaining to health and wellbeing. CYFN works closely with the Yukon First Nations Health and Social Development Commission which has representatives from all 14 Yukon First Nations. CYFN receives funding for this work mainly through contribution agreements with Indigenous Services Canada, Crown Indigenous Relations Northern Affairs Canada, Yukon government, and First Nation Information Governance Centre.

TREATMENT FUNDING

Yukon First Nations face challenges in accessing federally funded treatment programs outside of the Yukon. In response, CYFN secured funding through Indigenous Services Canada to support access to private treatment centers. Over the course of the 2022-2023 fiscal year, roughly 150 Yukon First Nations accessed private treatment centers through this funding and \$3.5 million was received. CYFN will continue to work with Yukon First Nations to support and advocate for citizens in need of healing supports.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS COUNSELLING SERVICES

CYFN developed a Yukon First Nations Counselling Program, with funding provided by Indigenous Services Canada. CYFN has contracted six Yukon First Nation counsellors who have provided 2,340 counselling sessions in 2022-2023 that have occurred between CYFN's three counselling spaces.

CYFN also administers counselling funds directly to Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nation Education Directorate and 7 NGOs and Women's shelters in Whitehorse, Dawson City and Watson Lake.

PERIOD POVERTY

This initiative is aimed at providing ongoing, equitable and free access to period products and was funded through Indigenous Services Canada and the Government of Yukon. The funding has enabled CYFN to distribute period products to Yukon First Nations, all schools across the territory, and to 14 NGO's. CYFN has worked closely with each community to gain understanding of their needs and shape distribution to meet those existing needs in a sustainable way. CYFN purchased over \$320,000 in period products throughout the year. This initiative will continue into 2023-2024.

FIRST NATIONS DATA GOVERNANCE STRATEGY

CYFN is leading engagement with Yukon First Nations to determine the implementation of the First Nations Data Governance Strategy. This strategy envisions the creation of a national network of First Nation-led initiatives that will serve the information needs of First Nations people and communities. The strategy is aimed at ensuring First Nations have the knowledge, skills, and infrastructure needed to achieve their goals.

Family Preservation Services
MENTAL HEALTH
& CULTURAL SUPPORTS
For Yukon First Nations

Chantai Minet
MSc., Provisional R.Psych

Chantel Blysak
MSW, RSW, CCC

Shauna Kormendy
MSW, RSW

Cheryl Maguire
CCC, RSW, Art Therapist

Tina Williams
MSW, RSW

Maisie Smith "Tu.aan"
MA, CCC





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NATURAL RESOURCES AND IMPLEMENTATION



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NEW MINING LEGISLATION

The monthly meetings of the New Minerals Legislation Steering Committee during the 2022-23 fiscal year focused on developing a suite of mineral management policy options. The policy options were brought forward for public engagement that began in the last quarter of the 2022-23 fiscal year. The results of the public engagement will inform the drafting of recommendations for the legislation's policy framework. These recommendations will be provided to the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations.

NEW LANDS LEGISLATION

A New Lands Legislation Steering Committee, consisting of Yukon government, Yukon First Nations, and transboundary First Nations was established and initiated monthly meetings from November 2022 onward. The new steering committee is following the same process for legislation co-development that was established for the new mining legislation. Three technical working groups have been established on key policy issues including Management of Activities on the Land, Tenure and Permits, and Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement.

YUKON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT ACT (YESAA) RESET MOU

The YESAA Forum Steering Committee hosted four virtual sessions in January and February 2023 on cumulative effects. These sessions were highly successful and had about 100 participants at each session. Themes for sessions included:

- Considerations for cumulative effects in the Yukon
- Evolving practice for cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring across Canada
- Indigenous-led approaches to cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring
- Advancing cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring in the Yukon.
- The YESAA Forum Steering Committee is now working on an action plan based on the recommendations that came out of the workshop.

HERITAGE WORKING GROUP

The Heritage Working Group meets quarterly and is the designated mechanism for collaboration on heritage management between representatives from the 11 self-governing Yukon First Nations, the Council of Yukon First Nations, and the Government of Yukon. The group continues to build momentum through legislative projects and the heritage awareness campaign, “Yukon’s Living Heritage.” In Fall 2022, the campaign won the National Trust for Canada Governor’s Award.

INDIGENOUS CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Canada has committed to co-develop a new system for partnership on climate leadership with First Nations across Canada. This includes transforming how federal funding is transferred and how decisions are made. The Council of Yukon First Nations will co-develop recommendations with Yukon First Nations as part of a three-year funding agreement.





CLIMATE ACTION FELLOWSHIP

It has been three years since the 2020 Yukon First Nations' Climate Action Gathering, where Yukon First Nations leadership signed a Climate Change Emergency Declaration and called for a youth-led Yukon First Nations Climate Vision and Action Plan. This led to the creation and launch of the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship. Thirteen youth took part in the fellowship that began in January 2021, reconnecting with their culture and identity as they developed the reconnection vision and action plan.



During the Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow 50th Anniversary celebrations, the youth officially graduated from the fellowship, and presented the Reconnection Vision to leadership and the public at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. This graduation marked a celebration of the next generation of Yukon First Nations climate leaders and united Yukon First Nations in a shared vision for the future. The finalized reconnection vision and action plan is slated for release in summer 2023.



YUKON FIRST NATION SALMON STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE

The Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance (YFNSSA) meets with Yukon First Nation partners monthly to discuss a wide range of topics related to salmon, including research, advocacy, and culture. In August 2022, YFNSSA cohosted the Annual Salmon Ceremony and Gathering in partnership with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, the Salmon Knowledge Hub, and the Canadian Mountain Network. The goal of this on the land gathering that took place at Tatchun Creek was to re-energize salmon culture and call the salmon back.



In January YFNSSA hosted a workshop to discuss whether hatcheries should be considered to help restore salmon numbers. Participants discussed how some salmon populations are critically low and decided that hatcheries (including instream incubation) might be a viable tool for restoration in some areas. YFNSSA plans on continuing the conversation on hatcheries with Yukon First Nations in the coming year.

Finally, YFNSSA has been advocating for the protection of salmon habitat by providing the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans with feedback on Fisheries Act implementation.



YFNSSA also partnered on research to study juvenile Chinook salmon habitat use in the Yukon River with Natasha Ayoub. This project will take several years but will improve our understanding of where Chinook juveniles are spending their summers and winters in freshwater.



THE YUKON FIRST NATIONS PROCUREMENT POLICY

The Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy (YFNPP) has been in force for a year and a half. Although the policy has generated positive outcomes, further work is needed to fine tune aspects of the policy including clarifying the definition of what constitutes a Yukon First Nations business in addition to the need for an appeals process.

Progress has been made in securing an agreement with the Yukon government to fund the implementation of a workforce development aspect of the YFNPP that will include defining existing capacity and availability of skills inventory tools within each Yukon First Nation. This will allow Yukon First Nation citizens and businesses to derive greater benefits from Yukon government procurement policy opportunities.

CHAPTER 22 REVIEW

Review of the Economic Development Measures chapter 22 of the Umbrella Final Agreement is substantially completed. Following a final review by leadership, release of the findings is anticipated in summer 2023. Further work to be undertaken includes the development of a series of recommendations for further work to be undertaken to incorporate recent Census Canada data.

CANADA'S ARCTIC AND NORTHERN POLICY FRAMEWORK - PARTNER CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

CYFN and the Yukon government are currently working to develop partner chapters for Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy Framework. This document guides Canada's international engagements on Arctic and northern affairs. It states Canada's values and objectives relating specifically to the North, unique to the northern policy positions of other circumpolar nations.

The intent of the partner chapter is to provide Canada with the priorities and interests of Yukon First Nations to guide federal policy development relating to the Arctic and the North.

Initial engagement with Yukon First Nations in the form of a one-day working session confirmed seven priorities held by Yukon First Nations that should be taken into consideration by Canada as it takes policy positions. These include:

- Revitalization of Yukon First Nations culture and languages
- Addressing Yukon First Nations health and social services needs
- Addressing the consequences of climate change for Yukon First Nations
- Yukon First Nation of research and Indigenous knowledge stewardship
- Implementing sustainable development in the Yukon
- Development of energy solutions for Yukon First Nations and the Yukon
- Arctic sovereignty

Plans are underway to host a series of working sessions with subject matter experts on the above priorities, with the objective of developing content for each of the above subject areas to be included in the partner chapter.

A YUKON FIRST NATIONS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

CYFN is in the early stages of a two-year effort to develop a Yukon First Nations economic development strategic plan. As a first step, the CYFN Chiefs Committee on Economic Development will be re-constituted to identify economic development priorities.

Objectives for this project include identification and prioritization of areas of opportunity and barriers related to economic development for Yukon First Nations.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS ENERGY CONFERENCE

CYFN is in the early stages of organizing a Yukon First Nations Energy Conference slated for fall 2023. The energy landscape is changing in the Yukon and there are many opportunities for Yukon First Nations involvement on the horizon. The conference will help to facilitate productive discussions between Yukon First Nations, the Yukon government, and utility providers in the North as well as ensure that Yukon First Nations are primed to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

NORTHERN CONTAMINANTS PROGRAM

The Northern Contaminants Program was established in 1991 in response to concerns that contaminants were reaching the Canadian Arctic. During the first six years, research was focused on gathering the data required to determine the levels, geographic extent, and source of contaminants in the northern atmosphere, environment, and its peoples.

Monitoring in the Yukon has continued to demonstrate that our traditional foods are very safe to eat and highly nutritious. Today, the Circumpolar Relations Unit continues to communicate results and monitor for new types of contaminants in the Yukon. Natural Resources and Implementation staff continue to participate in a regional Yukon Contaminants Committee that reviews proposals related to northern contaminant research and plan to enhance outreach and communications with Yukon First Nations and their communities to support more community-led northern contaminants-related work.

UMBRELLA FINAL AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP

This working group was created as a requirement of the Final Agreements as a space to collaboratively discuss and work through implementation challenges among self-governing Yukon First Nations, Canada and Yukon government. Key files in discussion include funding to continue to support Yukon First Nation and CYFN participation, funding to ensure appropriate resources for chapter 11 Land Use Planning, the chapter 22 review, and Canada and Yukon's Representative Public Service Plan.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

CYFN received approximately \$25.664 million in operating funds. Its financial and administrative team contributes to the efficient operations of CYFN departments through the management of these funds. It produces annual audited financial statements, oversees all financial activity, monitors cash flow, produces individual project statements and contracts, and works with departments to ensure contribution agreement obligations are met. It oversees the operation and maintenance of the premises, reception, and coordinates payroll.

INDIGENOUS SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING (ISET) PROGRAM

The total funding amount under the 2022-23 CYFN ISET Agreement was \$1,750,048 broken down as \$507,150 for EI funding, \$1,160,382 for Childcare funding and \$82,516 for CRF funding. CYFN was allocated 13.4 per cent for administrative expenses and the remaining funds were issued to Yukon First Nations and Skookum Jim Friendship Centre according to annual ISETP sub agreements. CYFN continues to assist the First Nations that are negotiating the drawdown of their remaining EI, CRF and Childcare funds into their FTA agreements. The chart below indicates the new funding allocation under ISETP, beginning April 1, 2022.

First Nation	CRF	FNICCI	IELCC	EI
CAFN	FTA	Under CYFN	Under CYFN	Under CYFN
C/TFN	FTA	FTA	FTA	FTA
KFN	FTA	Under CYFN	Under CYFN	Under CYFN
LSCFN	FTA	FTA	FTA	FTA
NND	FTA	Under CYFN	Under CYFN	Under CYFN
SFN	FTA	FTA	FTA	FTA
THFN	FTA	FTA	FTA	FTA
TKC	FTA	FTA	FTA	FTA
TTC	FTA	Under CYFN	Under CYFN	Under CYFN
VGFN	FTA	Under CYFN	Under CYFN	Under CYFN
WRFN	Under CYFN	Under CYFN	Under CYFN	Under CYFN
SJFC	Under CYFN	N/A	N/A	Under CYFN
	\$ 82,516	\$ 138,648	\$ 1,021,734	\$ 507,150



JUSTICE

WHITEHORSE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

CYFN meets regularly with clients and provides information and assistance in connecting them with their First Nations. CYFN assembled hampers for clients for the winter solstice celebration. The Knowledge Keepers Program has been gaining popularity with inmates. Through the program, a roster of Yukon First Nations Elders and knowledge holders deliver cultural programming including activities such as facilitating sweats on site. The project supports up to 40 hours per month of culturally relevant supports and teachings for First Nations clients.

GLADUE REPORT WRITING PILOT PROGRAM

A further one-year funding extension was received by the Government of Yukon to continue the Gladue Report Writing Program. With support from the Government of Canada, CYFN is undertaking research and development into aftercare or post sentencing considerations for Gladue clients. The Indigenous Perspectives Society in BC was also contracted to develop and deliver training for new Yukon First Nation Gladue report writers and professional development training for rostered writers.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT PILOT PROJECT

A one-year contribution agreement was secured with Yukon government after a period of staff turnover at the department slowed negotiations. Despite slowed progress on the funding front, CYFN completed four Community Impact Statements in 2022-23. Updates and information on the Community Impact Statement pilot project are provided to Yukon First Nations Justice colleagues at quarterly Justice Caucus meetings. Work going forward will involve holding a series of general information sessions for Yukon First Nations and justice sector partners.



FIRST NATIONS LEGAL SYSTEM NAVIGATORS



CYFN received funding to hire two First Nations Legal System Navigators to provide support and assistance to victims of intimate partner violence. The navigators work closely with CYFN's Family Preservation Services case workers to provide wrap around services for clients. Regular travel to the communities ensures barrier-free service provision for clients that would not otherwise have the means to travel to meet and to access support.

FIRST NATIONS FASD ACTION PLAN COORDINATOR

CYFN's First Nations FASD Action Plan Coordinator travelled to six communities over the course of the fiscal year and met with service providers including justice and health teams, child development teams, wellness managers, and outreach workers. Information materials were developed and distributed to raise awareness and understanding of FASD to address ongoing stigma.

The coordinator works with organizations that support those with FASD such as the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Society Yukon and Inclusion Yukon. The coordinator also maintains active participation in National FASD Awareness Day on September 9th.

RCMP SHARING COMMON GROUND REVIEW

CYFN participated in the review of the implementation of recommendations resulting from the Sharing Common Ground Review. Inspire Reconciliation Potential (IRP) was contracted to carry out the engagement. The Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from Yukon Government Department of Justice, the RCMP, and CYFN is reviewing the final engagement report from IRP and determining next steps.

TOWARDS RECONCILIATION - PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION AT THE LAW COURTS

Public art unveilings took place at the Law Courts as part of a series of projects aimed at making the court and judicial system more culturally inclusive for Yukon First Nations. The initiative is the result of a joint effort between CYFN, Yukon First Nations, the Government of Yukon, in addition to the Supreme and Territorial Courts of Yukon.

Artwork installed in Courtroom #5 titled "Forget Me Not" was created by Carcross/Tagish First Nation artist Violet Gattensby. Artwork installed in the atrium included a piece titled "Wolf and Crow Yukon Family" created by Northern Tutchone/Tlingit artist Eugene Alfred and a pair of painted drums titled "Balance" created by Ta'an Kwäch'an Council Elder Zhùr /Shirley Adamson and Kwanlin Dün First Nation member Doronn Fox. A large land acknowledgment sign in Southern Tutchone, English and French was also added to their piece.

LAW SOCIETY OF YUKON CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A day session called “Yukon First Nations People and the Justice System-Redefining the Conversation” was delivered to members of the Law Society of Yukon. This was a joint initiative between CYFN, the Government of Yukon and the Law Society of Yukon. The session was designed and delivered by a team of Yukon First Nations professionals selected by CYFN.

The overall goal was to provide information on culturally informed approaches for Yukon legal professionals to better serve Yukon First Nations that are navigating the justice system. This was the first course of its kind to be offered by the Law Society of Yukon. The workshop was approved by the Law Society of British Columbia for seven hours of credit that can be applied towards the mandatory 12-hour Continuing Professional Development requirement in the Yukon.

EXPLORING JUSTICE OUR WAY CONFERENCE

CYFN hosted the third annual two-day Justice conference at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre at the end of January. The gathering was free and open to Yukon First Nations, government and community justice partners, and the public. It featured presenters from the Siksika Nation, Dena k’eh Justice Programs, BC First Nation Justice Council and more. Topics focused on implementing and enforcing traditional laws, addressing intimate partner violence, a national Indigenous Justice Strategy and FASD. The conference was well attended.

CONNECTIVE PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE CULTURAL SUPPORTS

As part of CYFN's ongoing partnership with Connective - a non-profit contractor that provides housing operations and programming for vulnerable populations - a Cultural Support Worker was hired to provide cultural supports and deliver programming for residents and service users at the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter, Housing First residence, and the newly established Women’s Supported Housing and Reintegration Unit. The introduction of this position and related supports and programming have been very well-received by residents, service users, and staff. Some of the activities that have been offered include preparing traditional foods, making mini button blankets, dreamcatchers, and beaded roses. Personal wellness days and BBQ days have also taken place.





YUKON NATIVE LANGUAGE CENTRE

The Yukon Native Language Centre continues to offer language training in the various Yukon First Nation languages through various language programs, capacity building workshops, and gatherings.

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES PROFICIENCY PROGRAM (INLP)

The Yukon Native Language Centre offers a Certificate in Indigenous Language Proficiency to build adult fluency in the eight Yukon First Nations languages. During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, YNLC received 194 course registrations for language learning and language revitalization-based courses. Courses offered included Mentor Apprentice Programming, Language Learning Levels 1 – 4, Phonetics, Grammar, Language Revitalization, Curriculum and Resource Development, and Language Recording and Transcription. YNLC looks forward to continuing to build this program to raise the number of adult speakers within the territory.



YOUTH TODAY, LANGUAGE LEADERS TOMORROW PROGRAM

The Youth Today, Language Leaders Tomorrow (YTLLT) program, which launched in 2021, was extended until December 2023 to ensure the success and fluency growth of the language trainees. The YTLLT program supports 11 Yukon First Nations youth with full-time, paid positions to learn their Yukon First Nations languages and become language leaders within the territory. In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, trainees completed their Certificate in Native Language Proficiency through Simon Fraser University, and are currently enrolled in language classes through YNLC to receive their Diplomas in Indigenous Language Proficiency (DINLP). In addition to fluency-building courses, the YTLLT program also features land-based activities including immersion camps, immersion settings, hands-on learning, language research and vocabulary building through resource development projects – such as interactive games, calendars, car part videos, pet language, nutrition posters, etc. These opportunities help trainees practice our cultural and traditional ways of knowing, and help engage teachers, youth, learners, community members in the language. The aim of the program is for the trainees to leave the program as speakers with intermediate language proficiency within their Yukon First Nation language and graduate with their DINLP in the winter of 2024.



ROBERT MUNSCH TRANSLATION PROJECT

The Robert Munsch book translation project, launched in 2021, was extended to January 2024 and the Yukon Native Language Centre has expanded the project partners to include the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND), Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN), Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN), in addition to Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN), Liard First Nation (LFN), Kluane First Nation (KFN), and Selkirk First Nation (SFN). To date, 20 books have been transcribed and recorded in Łingit and are currently being reviewed prior to sending to the publisher. Additionally, at least 5 books are transcribed and progressing well in Northern Tutchone, Southern Tutchone, and Kaska. By extending community partners and the project end-date, YNLC and its participating Yukon First Nations anticipate having these popular children's books into Yukon First Nations communities by the winter of 2024.

ARCHIVES

In the past year, the YNLC archives team has inventoried large volumes of textual records and have continued to digitize archived cassette tapes through the Listen Hear Our Voices project. Since April 2022, YNLC has digitized 258 cassettes and enhanced the audio of 89 of these recordings while working with various Yukon First Nations to identify a priority digitization list. Other archival projects include the continued inventorying of the place names maps, textual records, and photographs. In partnership with CYFN, the YNLC archives team has continued the development of creating and implementing the policies and procedures on archival acquisition and access to increase Yukon First Nation access to archival material.





TOGETHER TODAY
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2023
FOR OUR CHILDREN TOMORROW



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