

Government-to-Government Accord on Shared Priorities

Between Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Government of Yukon



Government-to-Government Accord on Shared Priorities
("Accord")

Dated for reference the 26th day of August, 2025

-between-

the **Government of Yukon** as represented by the Premier
("YG")

-and-

Carcross/Tagish First Nation as represented by the **Kaa Shaadé Hení**
("C/TFN")

being the parties to this Accord (the "**Parties**")

- A. The Parties are committed to a renewed government-to-government relationship, based on reconciliation, collaboration and accountability, and believe this is best achieved through open, honest and frequent dialogue;
- B. The Parties are committed to building on existing opportunities and creating new opportunities to work together on joint priorities;
- C. The Parties recognize the enduring history of Yukon First Nation people and acknowledge their culture and languages and their significant contributions to the social fabric of a modern Yukon and Canada;
- D. Where possible, the Parties will use a united voice to advocate for federal programs, services and funding that meets the needs of Yukoners; and
- E. The Parties recognize that working together is the best way to bring real tangible benefits to our communities and to the Yukon.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The Purpose of this Accord is to build on the intentions of the Parties to work together and establish a government-to-government arrangement for collaboration and reconciliation. It identifies matters of mutual interest and priority and sets out a plan to address these matters in a timely manner.
- 1.2 This Accord is intended to help meet the obligations and realize the spirit and intent of the Final and Self-Government Agreements and recognize that they are instruments for collaborative nation building and protect a way of life that is based on environmental protection and sustainable economic growth.

2.0 Definitions

2.1 In this Accord:

Action Plan: Description of actions agreed to by the Senior Officials that are intended to support the realization of the Shared Priorities. The Action Plan is a living document that can be amended over time as agreed in writing.

Shared Priorities: Priorities that have been identified and agreed to by the Principals for implementation by both Parties.

Senior Officials: Representatives as identified in section 9.2 of this Accord.

Principals: The Principal for YG is the Premier, and the Principal for C/TFN is the K̄aa Shaadé Hení.

3.0 General

3.1 This Accord does not define, create, acknowledge, limit or otherwise affect any Aboriginal or treaty right of C/TFN.

3.2 This Accord is intended to record, at a high level, the shared interests and priorities of the Parties, with the understanding that additional prioritization of the actions set out in the Action Plan will be undertaken and periodically adjusted as necessary to account for each Party's capacity and leadership direction.

3.3 This Accord recognizes and respects existing bilateral, trilateral and other processes that are in place between the Parties and will not affect or replace any existing accords or agreements.

3.4 This Accord is not intended to be legally binding and shall not create legally enforceable obligations.

4.0 Shared Interests and Priorities

The Parties agree to focus on the following matters:

4.1 *Land and Water Planning and Management Processes*

4.1.1 Identify issues and shared interests in relation to territorial claims overlapping with C/TFN's Traditional Territory in the Yukon and explore ways to collaborate with other First Nations to address and resolve those issues and interests, including:

4.1.1.1 seeking to confirm whether the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN), the Government of Canada (Canada) and the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) are interested in commencing negotiations toward a

Transboundary Agreement in accordance with Chapter 25 of the C/TFN Final Agreement; and

4.1.1.2 identifying shared interests and ways to support the discussions related to the potential transfer of the Áashú Lands from YG to one or more First Nations or their designated entities.

4.1.2 Implement the management plan for the Tagish River Habitat Protection Area.

4.1.3 Identify opportunities to advance any bilateral initiatives identified in the Land and Water Relations Planning process once it is developed in a separate multilateral forum.

4.1.4 Collaborate with all relevant parties to explore the possibility of establishing a Special Management Area (Habitat Protection Area or Park) in the 10 Mile Road area of Tagish, which would be established and implemented in a separate multilateral process.

4.1.5 Seek approval of the draft Tagish Local Area Plan as a proposed planning scheme under the *Subdivision Act*.

4.1.6 Work toward finalizing the Local Area Plans for Marsh Lake and Tagish.

4.2 Health and Wellness

4.2.1 Explore shared interests in and ways to facilitate the continuation of jurisdiction, in a strategic and incremental manner, for child and family services by C/TFN.

4.2.2 Collaborate to support the implementation of the *C/TFN Family Act*, including developing and implementing comprehensive plans for culturally relevant child and family support and development services.

4.2.3 Develop and implement community health and wellness strategies and programming.

4.3 Housing and Infrastructure

4.3.1 Work to understand housing priorities for C/TFN citizens within C/TFN's Traditional Territory.

4.3.2 Discuss and consider C/TFN and community priorities for infrastructure planning.

4.3.3 Continue to engage with C/TFN to discuss capital spending plans, ensuring clear communication of the Five-Year Capital Plan.

4.4 *Economic Development*

- 4.4.1** Engage with C/TFN and community members to better understand interests and priorities related to tourism and economic development in C/TFN's Traditional Territory.
- 4.4.2** Identify potential opportunities for tourism and economic development that align with community priorities and leadership direction.
- 4.4.3** Explore ways to support clear and timely government-to-government communications processes for major development proposals in C/TFN's Traditional Territory, based on key principles in the C/TFN Final Agreement.

4.5 *Education*

- 4.5.1** Cooperate, and seek to collaborate, with Canada to facilitate the continuation of jurisdiction for education by C/TFN in a strategic and incremental manner, including by cooperating in research, analysis and implementation activities based on section 17 of the C/TFN Self-Government Agreement.
- 4.5.2** Identify, prioritize and address other bilateral education-related interests.

4.6 *Intergovernmental Relations*

- 4.6.1** Identify opportunities to advance a joint approach and messaging on shared priorities to Canada.
- 4.6.2** Develop an intergovernmental relations protocol to formalize and establish clear and consistent processes between the Parties for intergovernmental issues management, building on recent positive collaborative efforts such as the hosting of the Western Premiers Conference in June 2024 and the meeting of YG and Canada Deputy Ministers in November 2024.

5.0 *Action Plan Development*

- 5.1** Senior Officials will cooperatively develop an Action Plan within 90 days of signing this Accord that will identify how the priorities set out in 4.0 will be addressed.
- 5.2** Once completed, the Action Plan will be attached to this Accord as Appendix A and shall form part of the Accord.

- 5.3 The Action Plan will set out identified actions to realize the Shared Priorities agreed to by the Parties and is a living document that may be amended as the Senior Officials agree.
- 5.4 The Action Plan will identify lead department contacts, anticipated timelines and actions to implement each Shared Priority.
- 5.5 The Action Plan will be implemented through each Party's existing decision-making and approval processes.

6.0 Processes/Procedures (Coordination/Implementation)

- 6.1 Each Party shall name Senior Official(s) for the coordination of the administrative operation of this Accord, including the development, coordination and reporting to their respective Principal on the progress on the Action Plan.
- 6.2 Where the Parties agree to take action together on a Shared Priority, the Parties will each identify a contact that will be responsible for undertaking necessary action and managing the progress of the specific Shared Priority, including their reporting of progress and issues that may arise, to the Senior Officials.
- 6.3 The Senior Officials from each Party will meet on a quarterly basis, or more frequently by agreement, to monitor the progress on the items identified in the Action Plan.
- 6.4 The Principals will discuss activities undertaken pursuant to this Accord on an agreed schedule (at least annually) and address substantive issues as they may arise.

7.0 Amendment

- 7.1 This Accord may be amended from time to time in writing by agreement of the Principals.
- 7.2 Appendix A of this Accord may be amended from time to time by the Parties' Senior Officials, as designated under section 9.2 of this Accord.

8.0 Term

- 8.1 This Accord shall commence on the date it is signed and shall remain in effect for five years unless the Parties otherwise agree.
- 8.2 Either Party may terminate this Accord without cause by giving the other Party 30 days written notice of its intention to terminate.

8.3 The Senior Officials shall initiate a review the Accord no later than six months prior to its expiry with the goal of updating and renewing it for such period of time as agreed to by the Parties.

9.0 Communications

9.1 The Parties acknowledge that they may wish to communicate to the public regarding matters referred to in this Accord and agree that any communications or press releases related to work undertaken or matters discussed under this Accord will be jointly developed and approved before being released.

9.2 All notices and communications in connection with this Accord will be addressed to:

For Yukon: Director, First Nations Relations and Implementation
Aboriginal Relations - Executive Council Office
Government of Yukon
Box 2703 (A-14)
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

For CTFN: Executive Director
Carcross/Tagish First Nation
Box 130
Carcross, Yukon Y0B 1B0

10.0 Cost of Administration

10.1 The Parties shall be responsible for their own costs incurred in association with the administration and implementation of this Accord. The Parties may agree to particular cost arrangements to deal with specific shared priorities.

This Accord is signed on this 26th day of August, 2025.

Carcross/Tagish First Nation

Government of Yukon



Kaa Shaadé Hení Maria Benoit



Premier Mike Pemberton