



**Office of the Minister
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1 2C6**

February 27, 2026

Dear Premier:

Thank you for the opportunity to report back on how my department will advance our new government's mandate.

Our mandate prioritizes reliable and affordable energy, improved access to frontline and primary health care, putting students at the centre of our education system, increasing housing availability and affordability, strengthening public safety, and enabling private-sector-led economic growth. Responsibility for my department will require decisions that balance our inherited financial pressures with our commitment to provide strong public services to Yukoners. It will require joint action with other departments to advance their priorities. Working in partnership with Yukon First Nations, municipalities and other partners will also be central to achieving my mandate and delivering on our collective promise to Yukoners.

To balance this work, I will take a principled approach to decision-making and priority setting that considers:

- protecting frontline services that help Yukoners and keep our communities safe and healthy;
- respect for taxpayers and making sure there is value for money in government spending;
- partnership, collaboration, and respect; and
- responsible, disciplined decision-making that achieves continuous improvement for Yukoners.

These principles will ensure that fiscal responsibility is paired with a clear commitment to supporting the long-term wellbeing of Yukoners.

As the Minister of Environment, I have directed my department to prioritize:

- support boards and committees who manage fish and wildlife;
- improve recycling programming in the territory;
- developing a Climate Action Plan;
- enhancing camping opportunities and services; and
- enhance the Yukon's presence in the Arctic.

Together, these priorities will help to advance our government's overarching mandate to be environmental stewards, manage wildlife sustainably and to create the conditions for the private sector and rural Yukon to flourish.

I look forward to working collaboratively with my Cabinet colleagues to reduce red tape, remove unnecessary regulations, and to break down organizational silos through the Department of Economic Development's Red Tape Reduction Framework.

By working together, we can ensure our resources and taxpayer dollars are going where they are needed most: to support Yukoners.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Hon. Wade Istchenko
Minister of Environment

Mandate Implementation Plan

Department: Department of Environment

Approved by: Minister Wade Istchenko

Date: February 27, 2026

Overview

- The following mandate implementation plan outlines how the Department of Environment will advance the new government's mandate.
- The approach focuses on sustainable environmental stewardship and wildlife management, as well as the long-term prosperity and livability of our territory.

Top priorities

- **Support boards and committees who manage fish and wildlife:** work with Yukon First Nations, Indigenous governments and groups, and Final Agreement boards and councils to ensure they can exercise their powers and responsibilities to meet Umbrella Final Agreement Chapter 16 objectives. Develop a Yukon Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Harvest Strategy in partnership to provide a modern, collaborative, and science-based framework for actively managing and conserving the Yukon's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats in the Yukon to meet cultural, subsistence, and recreational needs of fish and wildlife users.
- **Improving recycling programming in the territory:** the department will work with partners to pause and reassess extended producer responsibility programs to ensure a balanced approach to a sustainable and efficient recycling system that considers private sector impacts.
- **Developing a Climate Action Plan:** develop a climate action plan that focuses on realistic and tangible actions that help the Yukon adapt to the changing climate and support climate resilient communities.
- **Enhancing camping opportunities and services:** in partnership with Yukon First Nations, the department will explore opportunities to expand camping opportunities and ensure enhancements reflect Indigenous culture, history and respect for traditional territory. Additional enhancements will explore infrastructure improvements and improvements to the online booking system.
- **Enhance the Yukon's presence in the Arctic:** working in collaboration with the Executive Council office, the department will support partnerships with the Government of Canada and Indigenous governments to enhance the Yukon's presence in the Arctic, including through scientific research, dual use infrastructure and increasing personnel in the North.