



# Aviation System

Progress Report 2022/23



**An update  
from Highways  
and Public Works**





Dear Yukon Aviation Community,

Yukon's aviation system has experienced a resurgence of air travel amongst Yukoners and tourists. We would like to thank the Yukon aviation community for their perseverance and dedication to serve the Yukon over the last few challenging years.

In 2022, the Government of Yukon agreed with the recommendations presented in Yukon's Flight Path: 2020–2030 Aviation System Investment Strategy. Based on these recommendations, we are committed to releasing an annual progress report that provides an overview of the efforts made by the government to address the report's recommendations.

We are pleased to be delivering the first progress report for the Yukon's aviation system to the Yukon aviation community and the public. The progress report provides an overview of accomplishments and items that are in progress based on the goals developed for the Yukon aviation system.

We have made several significant aviation infrastructure investments over the last fiscal year that we feel respond to the priorities and areas for improvement identified by Yukoners and the Yukon aviation community. We look forward to continued dialogue with the Yukon Aviation Advisory Committee and working with industry stakeholders to advance the recommendations from the Aviation System Investment Strategy.

Sincerely,

*Richard Gorczyca*  
*Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation Division*  
*Department of Highways and Public Works*

# The goals

for the Yukon  
aviation system

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## **06 – Safety**

Promote safety of aerodrome operations

## **08 – Industry**

Support aviation activity and industry in the Yukon

## **10 – Reliability**

Optimize service levels and operational processes to improve service reliability of the aviation system

## **12 – Community**

Support safety, emergency management and community development in Yukon communities

## **14 – Economics**

Improve economic sustainability of Yukon's aviation system

## **16 – Passenger experience**

Define the requirements and standards for the passenger and user experience within Yukon's aviation system





GOAL

# Safety



# Promote safety of aerodrome operations

Further develop the culture of safety within the aviation system through engagement with regulators, service providers and aviation stakeholders, and continued development of Yukon's aerodrome safety programs.

## Status Complete

- **Standardizing service agreements:** The Aviation System Investment Strategy recommended that standardized agreements be put in place with service providers working within the Yukon aviation system – both within government and externally. Based on this recommendation the Transportation Aviation Branch and Transportation Maintenance Branch developed a service agreement for winter surface maintenance at Yukon aerodromes that is now in effect. This agreement standardizes maintenance services at our community aerodromes.
- **Developed emergency preparedness exercise program:** The Government of Yukon has developed and implemented an exercise design and delivery program to improve response to airport emergencies. This includes emergency preparedness training for personnel at Yukon's community airports. The now in effect program was developed to support the continuing improvement and investment in emergency preparedness throughout Yukon's aviation system.

## Status Nearing Completion

- **Testing physical abilities competency for ARFF:** The Government of Yukon is updating physical abilities testing, which is a job requirement for aircraft rescue fire fighters. This new and improved process better reflects the duties performed in an emergency by Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF). It also prioritizes safety both during the test and on the job for these critical positions.

## Status In Progress

- **Reporting current conditions at aerodromes:** The Government of Yukon has several projects underway to improve condition reporting, including the development and implementation of publicly accessible aerodrome condition updates. We will continue to work with Nav Canada and other partners to advance weather reporting technology at our sites.





GOAL

# Industry



# Support aviation activity and industry in the Yukon

Improve collaboration between the Government of Yukon and industry groups to better understand emerging issues and to align our service priorities with industry needs and our available resources.

## Status

### Complete

- **Advancing subdivision of tenant lease parcels at ENWIA:** We are advancing our land management program for airports and aerodromes to ensure the best use of our limited aviation lands. The first subdivision plan was submitted and approved for Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport (ENWIA) which will enable our airports to register leases with Government of Yukon which may facilitate bank financing opportunities for tenants in future.
- **Engagement with partners:** We are prioritizing engagement with our partners, including NATA, NavCanada, other governments and airport jurisdictions. For example, this past May we sponsored the NATA conference in Whitehorse which provides a forum for northern air carriers and other stakeholders to discuss transportation in northern Canada. The Ministers of Tourism and Culture and Economic Development were speakers at the conference.



## Status

### In Progress

- **Improving leases and licenses:** Updates to the Lease, License and Permit Programs for Yukon's airports and aerodromes, which will facilitate the transition of existing leases, licenses and permits to modernized agreements and enable businesses to use land to the highest and best use.
- **Engaging with stakeholders:** We are committed to ongoing meetings with aviation stakeholders to better understand their needs and priorities.
- **Meeting with tourism industry:** In September 2023 we met with the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon, tourism industry stakeholders, and the Department of Tourism and Culture to discuss the project to replace the main runway at ENWIA and the possibility of supporting larger aircraft, specifically Aircraft Group Number (AGN) V aircraft. Long-term, the Government of Yukon will evaluate the cost, value, feasibility and sustainability of service level increases at ENWIA to consider supporting the scheduled operation of AGN V aircraft. However, to increase the service level at the ENWIA to an AGN V, there are a number of program and infrastructure investments that would need to be made.



GOAL

# Reliability



# Optimize service levels and operational processes to improve service reliability of the aviation system

Develop stronger data analytics capabilities to support our decision-making for operations and service-level planning within the aviation system, as well as help standardize asset management practices.

Status

## Complete

- **Implemented an aviation surface management and inspection program:** A comprehensive program was developed in 2021 to inspect the runways, taxiways and aprons at Yukon community airports and aerodromes. This has provided significant information about the condition of our aviation surfaces which will help advance our strategic asset management approach.

Status

## In Progress

- **Investigating common use check-in counters:** We are currently examining options to provide better efficiency of passenger check-in at the Whitehorse airport.
- **Launching Yukon airports dedicated website:** We will launch a dedicated website to serve the needs of the Yukon aviation system's passengers and aviation stakeholders.



GOAL

# Community



# Support safety, emergency management and community development in Yukon communities

Work with emergency service providers (such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Emergency Medical Services, Wildland Fire Management, and Emergency Measures Organization) to define and formalize the role of aerodromes in emergency management systems, and to provide an effective response during emergencies.

## Status

### Complete

- **Conduct electrical system assessments:** Government of Yukon has completed an assessment of system-wide electrical assets in 2022, including outside of Whitehorse, which will help inform the maintenance prioritization.
- **Standardizing maintenance for generators:** We will be moving forward with standardizing maintenance service for backup generators at community aerodromes in the event of an emergency power outage.

## Status

### Nearing Completion

- **Supporting Old Crow Airport:** A fly-in/fly-out maintenance model for the Old Crow Airport has been developed and we continue to collaborate with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation on maintaining and operating the airport.

## Status

### In Progress

- **Standardizing design for community Air Terminal Buildings:** We are looking at a standard Air Terminal Building design for community airports that is flexible to meet changing industry and community needs.



GOAL

# Economics



# Improve economic sustainability of Yukon's aviation system



Invest in critical aviation infrastructure to maintain the aviation system and provide adequate access to air transportation for the travelling public, emergency service providers and other aviation system users based on their defined needs.

## Status

### Complete

- **Improved the Watson Lake airfield:** To continue meeting the needs of the Watson Lake Airport, we resurfaced runway 08/26 at Watson Lake, and electrical and lighting system upgrades are currently in design.
- **Upgraded the parallel runway (14L/32R) at ENWIA:** We resurfaced and extended the parallel runway, rebuilt Taxiway Delta, installed a new field electrical centre and added lighting installations to better support larger aircraft, increased aircraft movements, and also support the replacement of the main runway. The upgraded parallel runway opened in December 2023.

## Status

### In Progress

- **Improving the ENWIA airfield:** We will be reconstructing the main runway, replacing the 32L runway approach lighting and installing new approach lighting for the 14R runway approach (on the main runway) and making other critical airfield improvements at ENWIA in order to replace aging infrastructure and keep the airport up to current standards.
- **Increasing financial sustainability:** We are investigating the sustainability of the Yukon's aviation system current financial model for aviation system operators, the aviation community and the travelling public.
- **Working with Yukon Aviation Advisory Committee:** We will continue to work with the Yukon Aviation Advisory Committee (YAAC) to inform future investment needs within Yukon's aviation system.



GOAL

# Passenger experience



# Define the requirements & standards for the passenger & user experience within Yukon's aviation system

We will work with aviation stakeholders to establish service standards for Yukon's aviation system that are based on defined requirements for stakeholder groups and consider our available financial and human resources.

Status

## Complete

- **Improving food services at ENWIA:** We have completed initial renovations for a food services area and have completed negotiations with Air North to launch food services at ENWIA in Spring 2024.

Status

## In Progress

- **Assess the ENWIA Air Terminal Building:** We will be conducting further assessments of the Air Terminal Building to inform capital investments over the next 10 years based on passenger growth projections.
- **Developing the classification system:** We are developing the Yukon Aerodromes Functional Classification System and the procedures for reviewing the classification of Yukon aerodromes. We are using the Aerodrome Classification System from the Aviation System Investment Strategy, which was reviewed with the Yukon Aviation Advisory Committee, as an input to this work.

**Yukon**

