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Yukon Mineral Exploration Program (YMEP) Guidebook: Hardrock Modules

Purpose

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

This guidebook was designed to provide general information on the YMEP Hardrock Modules, including the application process and the requirements for reporting. More detailed information is provided in appendices at the end of this document. All other pertinent information (YMEP Application for Funding, Expense Claim, Project Status Report and Final Submission) can be obtained by emailing ymep@gov.yk.ca or geology@gov.yk.ca.

- Appendix A – Evaluation Criteria
- Appendix B – Expense Rate Guidelines
- Appendix C – Requirements for Final Technical Report

Applicants are encouraged to contact the YMEP Geologist (Derek Torgerson) with any questions they have about the program or its administration. Contact information is included at the end of this document.

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.

Funding is not automatic and is not allocated on a first come, first served basis. Projects will be evaluated using the Evaluation Criteria in Appendix A, and funding will be allocated based on application scores.

The hardrock component of the program is subdivided into three different modules (see YMEP Hardrock Modules table below) and maximum funding levels for each module are re-evaluated on an annual basis.

The grassroots module is restricted to the independent prospector. Contractors or employees working on behalf of a company are not eligible for the grassroots module.

Individual prospectors, private companies and public companies can all apply to the Focused Regional and Target Evaluation modules. Module details (maximum grant, matching funds, expense allowances etc.) are summarized below (see YMEP Hardrock Modules Summary table).

Key Dates

Key dates associated with this program are as follows:

- March 31: application deadline
- September 30: projects status report deadline
- January 31: technical report, final expense claim and final submission form deadline
## YMEP Hardrock Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Reimbursement Rate</th>
<th>Maximum Funding</th>
<th>Scope of Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Grassroots            | 100% of eligible expenses               | $15,000         | • for individual prospectors  
|                       |                                         |                 | • on or off claims  
|                       |                                         |                 | • to generate new targets and advance existing ones  
|                       |                                         |                 | • priority will be given to new areas and targets without significant previous exploration work |
| Focused Regional      | 75% of eligible expenses                | $25,000         | • for individuals, partnerships and companies  
|                       |                                         |                 | • on or off claims  
|                       |                                         |                 | • regional focus in order to define targets |
| Target Evaluation     | 60% of eligible expenses                | $40,000         | • for individuals, partnerships and companies  
|                       |                                         |                 | • on claims  
|                       |                                         |                 | • focused work aimed at evaluating and advancing pre-existing target |

### YMEP Summary Table – Hardrock Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Grassroots</th>
<th>Focused Regional</th>
<th>Target Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>max $15,000</td>
<td>max $25,000</td>
<td>max $40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursement rate</td>
<td>up to 100% of eligible expenses</td>
<td>up to 75% of eligible expenses</td>
<td>up to 60% of eligible expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope of work</td>
<td>to generate new targets and advance existing ones</td>
<td>to generate new targets</td>
<td>to evaluate and advance already known targets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who is it for?</td>
<td>individual prospectors only (no companies nor anyone working on behalf of a company). Applicants are expected to carry out the majority of work themselves.</td>
<td>prospectors, companies, partnerships</td>
<td>prospectors, companies, partnerships; projects with total exploration expenditures less than $300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where can work proceed?</td>
<td>on claims or Crown land</td>
<td>on claims or Crown land</td>
<td>on claims; not Crown land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field time requirements</td>
<td>no minimum</td>
<td>no constraints on time in field</td>
<td>no constraints on time in field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report requirements</td>
<td>daily log and brief summary report with all samples and data points in digital format. (summary report may not qualify as an assessment report)</td>
<td>final technical report</td>
<td>final technical report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holdback (reporting)</td>
<td>15% holdback until submission of final reporting requirements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting deadlines</td>
<td>project proposal: March 31 status report: September 30 final financial report and final summary report and release of funds: January 31 of following calendar year</td>
<td>project proposal: March 31 status report: September 30 final financial report and final technical report and release of funds: January 31 of following calendar year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidentiality</td>
<td>final reports will be kept confidential for 2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module-specific eligible expenses</td>
<td>all wages are ineligible</td>
<td>non-specific</td>
<td>drilling; road building costs up to &lt;25% of YMEP contribution if pre-approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. It is not acceptable to break a contiguous claim block into zones to arrive at a lower limit.

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

There are no limits to the number of applications an applicant can submit and there are no limits to the number of applications funded under one applicant. However, one applicant cannot receive more than $150,000 of YMEP funding per season regardless of the number of projects. Please note that these limits are subject to change on an annual basis. Applications submitted by individuals having a personal or working relationship with the applicant (e.g., spouses, relatives, coworkers, employees applying on behalf of a company, etc.) will not be considered as separate applicants.

Applicants

Applications will be accepted from individuals or companies that meet the following requirements:

- individuals must be nineteen years of age or older, and a resident of Canada 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; and
- companies must be legal entities in good standing with the right to contract.
Applicants must:

- have a Canadian mailing address;
- be eligible to stake mineral claims in Yukon as governed by the Yukon Quartz 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 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.).

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 the YMEP Geologist access to the project area; and
- proposed 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.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek advice from the YMEP Geologist if they have questions about the application process or their project. As per the Government of Yukon Health & Safety guidelines, the YMEP Geologist may decline to provide advice if a proponent uses abusive or threatening language or behaves unprofessionally. Individuals or representatives of companies who conduct this type of behavior may be banned from the YMEP program indefinitely.

**Application Procedure**

YMEP applications consist of a single document – Application for Funding Form.

The annual deadline for applications is March 31 (on years where March 31 falls on a weekend, the deadline corresponds to the Friday before March 31).

The Application Form can be obtained from the YGS (ymep@gov.yk.ca). Please note that all sections of the form must be filled out.

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

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit drafts of their Application Form or discuss their plans with YGS staff ahead of the March 31 deadline, as they can benefit from feedback on their proposal. No additions or changes to applications will be considered after the March 31 deadline.
Program Requirements

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure 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 executed work must conform to the work plan outlined in the Application Form. Any significant changes must be approved by the YMEP Geologist in order to be considered eligible. Significant changes to a work program without approval may result in a refusal to reimburse unapproved expenses.

Eligible Expenses

The following activities will be reimbursed as eligible expenses if they have been approved in the work plan according to the Rate Guidelines (see Appendix B for detailed rate guidelines):

- conventional exploration work according to industry best-practice standards
- travel within Yukon up to 25% of eligible claims
- assays and analyses
- shipping
- 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 claims
- reclamation
- limited trail/road building up to 10% of claim
- report preparation
- rentals – commercial and private
- drilling
- trenching
- sampling and processing of samples
- geophysical surveys
- writing of final report

For rates not listed in Rate Guidelines, contact the YMEP Geologist.

Non-Eligible Expenses

- expenses not approved in the original workplan
- 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
- underground work
- 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

**Expense Claims and Reimbursement**

Expenses can be submitted once per 30-day period by filling out an Expense Claim Form and submitting photocopies of receipts. The Expense Claim guide is available via email at ymep@gov.yk.ca or geology@gov.yk.ca.

Expenses must be listed in detail on the Expense Claim Form. Photocopies 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 equipment.

**Note:** 15% of each eligible claim will be held back until final submissions are received.

**Conditions of Funding**

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 the YMEP Geologist 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 form to the YMEP Geologist by September 30;
- to fulfill all YMEP reporting requirements by **January 31**, including:
  - Final Submission Document
  - Final Expense Claim
  - Technical or Summary Report (Report will include detailed technical information as outlined in Appendix C 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 submission.

Recipients who do not submit their Project Status Report Form to the YMEP Geologist by September 30 may have their funding withdrawn.

Final payments may be forfeited if the final reports are not submitted by January 31, and future eligibility for funding may be affected. With prior approval, the January 31 reporting deadline may be pushed back to accommodate winter work.
Release of Information and Confidentiality

Applications and project proposals are kept confidential and can be returned to the applicant upon request.

Final Reports are kept confidential for two years, after which they will be publicly available through the EMR library www.emr.gov.yk.ca/library/.

Successful applicants must agree to have the following information released to the public:

- their name and/or company name
- the project name
- the approximate location (if on claims, 1:50 000 NTS map sheet; if off claims, 1:250 000 map sheet)
- the amount of funding awarded

Evaluation Process

Applications are reviewed each year and assigned scores by a team of YGS geologists using the Evaluation Criteria presented in Appendix A (criteria are also available on the YMEP webpage). The proposals are ranked by project type (i.e., hard rock or placer) according to their score.

The amount of 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 hard rock versus placer projects reflects the proportion of eligible hard rock versus placer applications.

Funding decisions will be announced by May 15.

Performance Scoring

Upon completion, projects are evaluated and scored based on adherence to reporting deadlines, the quality of field performance, and the final report. The score will be applied to the ‘past performance’ criteria in future applications. Performance score can be forwarded to the applicant upon request.

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 YMEP Geologist. Two government geologists not involved in the initial assessment will review the application using the same rating system and information that was used in the original assessment. They will make recommendations as to whether the scoring should be modified. No new information will be considered during the appeal process.
Contact Information

Derek Torgerson, YMEP Geologist
Yukon Geological Survey
ph: (867) 456-3828
toll free 1-800-661-0408
fax: (867) 667-3198
e-mail: ymep@gov.yk.ca

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

Physical Address
102-300 Main Street, Whitehorse, Yukon
Appendix A – Evaluation Criteria

Project Proposal (total points: 20)

Quality of work plan – 10 points
Is it logical? Cost effective? Is the work plan appropriate given the geology/terrain/exploration target?

Quality of the exploration proposal – 10 points
Is sufficient information (of appropriate quality) provided to accurately assess the proposal?

Experience of Applicant (total points: 5)

Past performance – 5 points
Includes the applicant, as well as any employees, contractors and partners.
NOTE: Score is based on the average performance score from previous YMEP projects. For new applicants and personnel/contractors with no previous YMEP history, the average score of all applicants will be assigned to avoid any scoring bias.

Target Considerations (total points: 20)

Favourable geology – 20 points
Assessment of favourability is based on descriptions provided of the exploration target, and the work history.

Potential for Success (total points: 5)

Potential of project to result in additional economic development – 5 points
If successful, is the target likely to see further exploration and/or development?
# Appendix B – Expense Rate Guidelines

YMEP Rate Guidelines
Pre-approval is required for any items not listed below. Please provide copies of receipts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Includes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>max/day</td>
<td>receipts required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily field expenses</td>
<td>$100/day/person</td>
<td>food, camp costs, packs, sampling equipment (hammers, 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.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labourer</td>
<td>up to $275/day</td>
<td>for grassroots module, all wages are ineligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technician</td>
<td>up to $350/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospector</td>
<td>up to $350/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geologist</td>
<td>up to $400/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Geologist</td>
<td>up to $500/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCB</td>
<td>as per receipt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air travel within Yukon</td>
<td>as per receipt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assays</td>
<td>as per receipt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipping of samples</td>
<td>as per receipt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reclamation</td>
<td>as per receipt</td>
<td>refers to costs not already included in machine time or wages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report</td>
<td>reasonable cost to a maximum of 10% of eligible claim</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claim staking</td>
<td>as per receipt</td>
<td>includes staking costs and air travel to a maximum of 20% of eligible claim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel</td>
<td>as per receipt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Rental</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self-Owned or Private Rental</td>
<td>Commercial Rates from Commercial Rental Agency (with invoice including GST)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy equipment</td>
<td>75% of commercial rate</td>
<td>wet rate; includes fuel and operator; must indicate make, model, year, size category, specialized accessories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drilling</td>
<td>75% of commercial rate</td>
<td>as per receipt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck within Yukon</td>
<td>$0.60/km</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$50/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## YMEP Rate Guidelines, continued.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Include</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>max/day</td>
<td>receipts required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATV</td>
<td>$40/day</td>
<td>as per invoice, up to $190/day or $800/week or $1800/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATV tub trailer</td>
<td>$10/day</td>
<td>as per invoice, up to $50/day or $200/week or $350/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport trailer</td>
<td>$16/day</td>
<td>as per invoice, up to $55/day or $275/week or $725/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow machine</td>
<td>$40/day</td>
<td>as per invoice, up to $190/day or $800/week or $1800/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chainsaw</td>
<td>$10/day</td>
<td>as per invoice, up to $35/day or $200/week or $600/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XRF analyzer</td>
<td>$110/day</td>
<td>as per invoice, up to $500/day or $2000/week or $5000/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pump</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&quot;</td>
<td>$10/day</td>
<td>as per invoice, up to $21/day or $150/week or $380/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&quot;</td>
<td>$13/day</td>
<td>as per invoice, up to $56/day or $221/week or $555/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4&quot;</td>
<td>$15/day</td>
<td>as per invoice, up to $55/day or $225/week or $700/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4&quot; diesel</td>
<td>$25/day</td>
<td>as per invoice, up to $110/day or $440/week or $1200/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Generator</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2800 W</td>
<td>$10/day</td>
<td>as per invoice, up to YTG rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3000 W</td>
<td>$13/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5000-6000 W</td>
<td>$15/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Boat + Trailer</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16’ 30 HP</td>
<td>$50/day</td>
<td>as per invoice, up to YTG rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18’ 40 HP</td>
<td>$75/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>canoe</td>
<td>$10/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>canoe, 5 HP</td>
<td>$13/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* based on Whitehorse commercial rental rates
** based on YG rates; the Third Party Equipment Rentals guide.
Appendix C – Requirements for Final Technical Report

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

1. Final Expense Claim
2. Final Submission document
3. Technical or Summary 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 program). Failure to meet the January 31 deadline may result in a forfeit of the final payment.

This appendix provides general guidelines on the requirements for the Technical or Summary Report. It covers all four YMEP modules: Grassroots, Focused Regional and Target Evaluation (hardrock) modules and the Placer Module. **Not all content is relevant to all modules.** Schedule B of the proponent’s Transfer Payment Agreement may include additional reporting requirements.

**Format Requirements**

**Two copies** of the final report are required. One must be in hard copy; the second may be an electronic copy in Portable Document Format (.pdf) with sample/assay data in spreadsheet format, preferably Microsoft Excel (.xls).

**Content Requirements**

The Grassroots Summary or other module Technical Reports must document the work performed and the results of the work. The results can be presented in map or table format (or both). The quality and content of the report and maps will be assessed as part of your Performance Score.

Grassroots Prospecting programs must include a daily log (diary) outlining the work activity for each day in order to be paid the Daily Living Allowance. It must indicate the dates worked, the description of work accomplished, and illustrate on a map traverses made and the locations of any work performed, observations made, etc.

The following information should be included in the report:

1. For evaluation and prospecting surveys:
   a) a summary of all previous relevant investigations
   b) details of surface evaluation
   c) a description of the methods of sampling employed, and the methods of analyzing the recoverable commodity
   d) tabulated results of all analyses and assays
   e) conclusions and recommendations

2. For geological mapping and stratigraphy:
   a) a table of all geographical units
   b) detailed geological information of rock types, structures, veins, mineralized zones and processes occurring on the claims
   c) an interpretation of the geological observations made
   d) conclusions and recommendations
3. For geophysical surveys:
   a) a description of the survey methods and equipment used
   b) dates of survey
   c) number of stations established
   d) kilometres of line surveyed
   e) copies of geophysical readings or profiles
   f) pertinent calculations
   g) maps illustrating the data in graphic format
   h) station location (GPS) and survey data in digital format
   i) an interpretation of the data collected which would include references to the documented geology
   j) conclusions and recommendations

4. For geochemical surveys:
   a) type and amount of samples collected
   b) survey dates
   c) a description of the survey methods and equipment used
   d) for soil surveys, particular soil horizon sampled
   e) a description of type(s) of sample analysis used
   f) maps illustrating the data in graphic format
   g) GPS location data and all analytical data in spreadsheet format;
   h) an interpretation of the data collected, including references to the documented geology
   i) conclusions and recommendations

5. For analytical results:
   a) the total number of samples collected
   b) sample locations
   c) description of samples
   d) analytical methods used; include a description of any field analytical method(s) used for determining the metal content
   e) concentrations of metals/commodities identified including unit of measure
   f) the name of the commercial lab used for analysis

Note: Assay results shall be accompanied by assay or analytical certificates (hard copies and electronic copies in spreadsheet format), as well as plans or sections (or both) depicting sample locations, sample dimensions, assay results, and indicating the types of samples taken (e.g., grab, chip, panel, channel, drill core or other).
6. For trenching and test pitting (hand or mechanical):
   a) dates of the work carried out
   b) names of all persons who performed the work
   c) description of equipment used
   d) an accurate plan illustrating the location of excavations or other surface workings relative to the local topography and claim or lease boundaries
   e) the dimensions of the workings and the volume of material excavated
   f) descriptions of the materials excavated (e.g., stratigraphic profile that includes unit position, thickness, texture and grade)
   g) analytical results obtained from samples or specimens taken from the workings

7. For diamond drilling:
   a) an accurate map illustrating the location of drill holes (including their bearing and dip) relative to the local topography and claim boundaries
   b) complete drill logs including core diameter, total depth/thickness of each unit, rock types and mineralization, and an estimation of grade
   c) results of physical or chemical tests performed on core
   d) assays or analyses of core or sections of core, and if no assays are provided, the reason for their absence
   e) a summary outlining the objectives, results and recommendations of the drill program

8. Relevant photographs of work completed, including any reclamation, should be included.

Incomplete and/or late reporting of your prospecting or exploration project 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.