



Share your thoughts on the Government of Yukon's new Yukon University legislation

Yukon College is in the process of transitioning to Yukon University. Yukon University will be a hybrid university that will continue to offer existing college programming, such as trades, adult basic education and second language support programs, and also new university degrees.

In Canada, the provinces and territories oversee post-secondary institutions. The Government of Yukon oversees Yukon College through the [Yukon College Act](#). However, new legislation is needed to meet the requirements that university status demands. This new legislation will provide a framework that defines a university in Yukon.

To ensure Yukon University meets the diverse education needs of Yukoners, the Government of Yukon is asking the public, partners and Yukon First Nations for feedback on key aspects of the legislation, including:

- University Mandate
- Government Oversight and University Autonomy
- University Accountability
- University Governance
- Program Delivery in Yukon Communities

Please fill out the survey below. Be sure to review the background to each question before answering.

Mandate for Yukon University

A piece of legislation normally begins with a description of its intended purpose. This is often referred to as the Objects and Purpose of the legislation. In university legislation, the Objects and Purpose section establishes the university's mandate. This mandate informs the types of educational programs it will offer.

The Objects and Purpose below are being considered for the new university legislation:

Objects:

- To honor and support the implementation of Yukon First Nations Final and Self-Government Agreements by building capacity through education and research;
- To advance learning and distribute knowledge for the betterment of society;
- To serve the educational needs of all Yukon University students, including Indigenous students and students from other jurisdictions;
- To enhance the economic and social well-being of Yukon by supporting a broad range of educational opportunities; and
- To serve as a platform for people from Canada and around the world to experience and learn about Yukon.

Purpose:

- To offer earned certificates, diplomas, and university degree programs rooted in our northern and diverse environment;
- To offer post-secondary and adult basic education and training;
- To undertake and maintain research and scholarly activities for the purpose of investing in the North.

Q1. Do you agree with the Objects and Purpose being considered for Yukon University legislation?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q2. Do you think anything needs to be changed or added?

Government Oversight and University Autonomy

Government Oversight

Governments provide oversight for post-secondary education on behalf of the public. Oversight is important to ensure that post-secondary education is high quality, affordable and accessible, contributes to the social and economic development of the territory and meets the needs of Yukon students and citizens.

Governments oversee post-secondary education in several ways, including through legislation, regulations and policies, and by identifying priorities for the post-secondary education system.

University Autonomy

Institutional Autonomy is understood as the ability of universities to set and implement their own strategies and operations, independent of government, corporate or other intervention, and to uphold academic freedom, which includes the ability to set research and educational priorities.

Finding the right balance: Finding the right balance between government oversight and university autonomy is important to ensuring that universities are autonomous but continue to be accountable to the public.

Some areas where government oversight and university autonomy can intersect are:

- Cost of tuition fees
- Student enrollment priorities
- Student outcome priorities
- Education and research priorities

Q3. In its responsibility to provide oversight for the post-secondary education system, do you think the government should consider overseeing any of the following? Check all that apply.

- Putting limitations on tuition fee increases to ensure fees remain affordable.
- Setting priorities to improve enrollment numbers for various groups of students. For example, first generation university students (students whose parents did not attend a post-secondary institution).
- Setting priorities to improve outcomes for various groups of students. For example, improved graduation rates for students with disabilities.
- Identifying educational priorities. For example, ensuring that some of the programs and training made available are for high-demand jobs.
- None of the above

Q4. Is there anything else that should be considered to ensure we find the right balance between providing some government oversight and ensuring Yukon University is autonomous?



University Accountability

To be autonomous, publicly funded universities, including Yukon University, must also be accountable to the broader public. Accountability is especially important in building public trust in universities by ensuring the university is fulfilling its mandate, meeting its performance goals and the needs of citizens.

Accountability Indicators are often used to indicate in which areas post-secondary institutions should be accountable to the public.

It is common for post-secondary institutions to report on finances and other business and operational plans, but there are some other Accountability Indicators that may also be considered.

Q5. From the list below, what Accountability Indicators do you feel are important for Yukon University to be accountable for? Check all that apply.

- Student enrollment and number of graduates
- Yukon First Nations student enrollment and number of graduates
- Other Indigenous student enrollment (non-Yukon First Nations, Métis and Inuit) and number of graduates
- Integration of Yukon First Nations and northern perspectives into the programming and culture of the university
- Number of first generation post-secondary students (students whose parents did not attend a post-secondary institution)
- Student satisfaction with university services (for example, effective program advising, cultural or social supports)
- Satisfaction of graduates with their program/coursework
- Employment rates of graduates
- Credentials awarded (degrees, diplomas, certificates, trades and academic upgrades)
- Credentials awarded to Yukon First Nations students
- Credentials awarded to other Indigenous students
- Students' sense of belonging to an inclusive university community
- Satisfaction of students with student involvement in university governance
- None of the above

Q6. Is there anything else that should be considered?

University Governance

University Governance is the processes and practices that a university uses to organize itself, including how decisions are made, accountability, control and codes of conduct. The governance structure of a university is outlined in legislation.

Bi-Cameral Governance

A bi-cameral governance model is being considered for Yukon University. This model is one of the most common governance models in universities across Canada and represents a balance between two distinct bodies: (1) a Board of Governors and (2) an Academic Senate. The new legislation for Yukon University would outline the powers and membership of the Board of Governors and the Academic Senate.

The Board of Governors and the Academic Senate often include faculty and non-faculty staff, as well as students, alumni and members of the public.

Faculty: faculty members are academic staff who are educators, such as professors. School faculties are the different divisions of subject areas in a university, such as the Faculty of Education.

Non-faculty staff: Non-faculty staff are other staff members who are not part of the academic operations of the university, such as administrative staff and counsellors.

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors is responsible for the administration of the university, such as setting enrolment levels, managing the university's budget, and establishing faculties within the university.

Academic Senate

An Academic Senate is responsible for academic oversight. For example, the Senate may be responsible for admission and graduation requirements, approving curriculum content for programs and courses, and awarding scholarships and bursaries.

Q7. Which of the following members do you think should be represented on the Board of Governors? Check all that apply.

- First Nations representatives
- Rural community representatives
- Faculty staff representatives
- Non-faculty staff representatives
- Students
- Other (please state):
- Don't know

Q8. Which of the following members do you think should be represented on the Senate? Check all

that apply.

- First Nations faculty or non-faculty staff representatives
- Faculty representatives from each faculty
- Non-faculty staff representatives
- Rural community representatives who are faculty or non-faculty staff
- Student representative
- Other (please state):
- Don't know

Program Delivery in Yukon Communities

It is important that communities have a say when it comes to educational programming and opportunities in their community. Legislation can ensure community needs are met through collaboration, representation in governance, and a commitment in principle to deliver and expand programming in rural Yukon communities.

9. How can Yukon University best ensure people who reside in Yukon's rural communities have a voice in the governance of the university and ensure their educational needs are being met?

Check all that apply.

- Have rural community members on the Board of Governors
- Have faculty and non-faculty staff from rural communities on the Academic Senate
- Establish a rural advisory structure to advise the Board of Governors, Academic Senate and university administration on needs of communities
- Regular collaboration with communities about their needs
- Commitment to meet the educational needs of rural communities in the university's mandate
- Other (please state):
- Don't know

Demographic questions

*Q10. Are you a Yukon resident?

- Yes
- No

*Q11. Which community do you live in?

- Beaver Creek
- Burwash Landing
- Carcross
- Carmacks
- Dawson City
- Destruction Bay
- Faro
- Haines Junction
- Ibex Valley
- Marsh Lake
- Mayo
- Mount Lorne
- Old Crow
- Pelly Crossing
- Ross River
- Tagish
- Teslin
- Watson Lake
- Whitehorse
- Other:

*Q12. How old are you?

- Less than 18 years old
- 18-29 years old
- 30-39 years old
- 40-49 years old
- 50-59 years old
- 60-64 years old

- 60 -64 years old
- 65 years old or older

***Q13. Are you a current student at Yukon College?**

- Yes
- No

***Q14. Are you a former student of Yukon College?**

- Yes
- No

***Q15. Are you a post-secondary student attending a college or university outside of Yukon?**

- Yes
- No

***Q16. Are you a member of the business community (for example, an employer, contractor or business owner)?**

- Yes
- No

***Q17. Are you a member or citizen of a Yukon First Nation?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Thank you for taking the survey.