



COUNCIL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Council Questions – Regular Council May 13, 2024

1. Motion – Youth Initiatives

- a. *Can administration provide an update on progress of the action items specific to the City of Whitehorse from the Yukon Territorial Youth Strategy Declaration 2024?*

Administration is making good progress on the action items specific to the City of Whitehorse from the Yukon Territorial Youth Strategy Declaration 2024. Staff are on track to meet the Year 1 priorities (September 2023 to August 2024). A work plan containing further details on the progress has been shared with the Council as an Administrative Update.

- b. *What analysis was done by the City prior to signing Yukon Territorial Youth Strategy Declaration 2024?*

Since the Territorial Youth Strategy's (TYS) inception in 2017, the City of Whitehorse's Recreation department has been engaged in this initiative. Continuous analysis with input from other City Departments has ensured alignment with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and with Council's Strategic Priorities, and has resulted in adapting programs and services based on feedback from youth. Some examples of changes made include: Restorative Practices and Trauma Informed Training for Recreation staff and a new After School Program. Budget requests have been and will continue to be submitted to address needs and accommodate areas of growth. Efforts to engage youth will continue to be integrated into regular operations. The department commits to providing ongoing updates and revisions reflecting the latest insights and developments.

Operationally, Recreation's ongoing work with children and youth is already reflected in the YYS. Unlike traditional policy mandates, the YYS operates as a dynamic, guiding document. Rather than dictating specific actions and deadlines, it provides priorities that serve as a roadmap for decision-makers across various sectors, allowing for flexibility and adaptability in implementation. This approach ensures that the strategy remains responsive to the evolving needs and priorities of youth.

Key events that have led to the signing of the declaration in April 2024 include:

- 2019: Recreation staff participates in the Reverse Millennial Town Hall, hearing a need for collective action from youth-serving organizations.
- 2021: The Recreation Department becomes more actively engaged in the development of the initiative through participation in group discussions, workshops, surveys, and direct conversations with youth-serving organizations, indicating a progression towards a formal strategy,
- 2022: Council receives administrative updates on the initiative, particularly related to BSCF funding, at various points throughout the year.



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- 2023: Council members attend the 2023 Yukon Youth Summit (April 16 - 19, 2023), where they are formally introduced to the strategy and encouraged to participate as part of the summit. Council receives further updates on the initiative at the Youth Summit, indicating ongoing progress.
- 2023: Recreation staff identified that some of the priorities proposed for the TYS align with Council's Strategic Priorities, including housing, safety, First Nations collaboration, transportation, inclusivity, diversity, climate change, and recreation, and added components to employee workplans. TYS also supports the Guiding Principles of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.
- 2024: The draft of the initiative is finalized. Recreation reviewed the draft to ensure its alignment with existing initiatives before recommending it as a guiding document. During this review, Recreation identified that several of priorities within the draft correspond with projects the City already has planned or underway. And, that supporting this initiative would not require extensive budgetary impacts, as it complements existing work within the Recreation Department. These projects have been captured in a document that'll be monitored and updated through the Recreation department.
- 2024: The initiative was presented at a signing ceremony, marking a significant milestone in its development.