

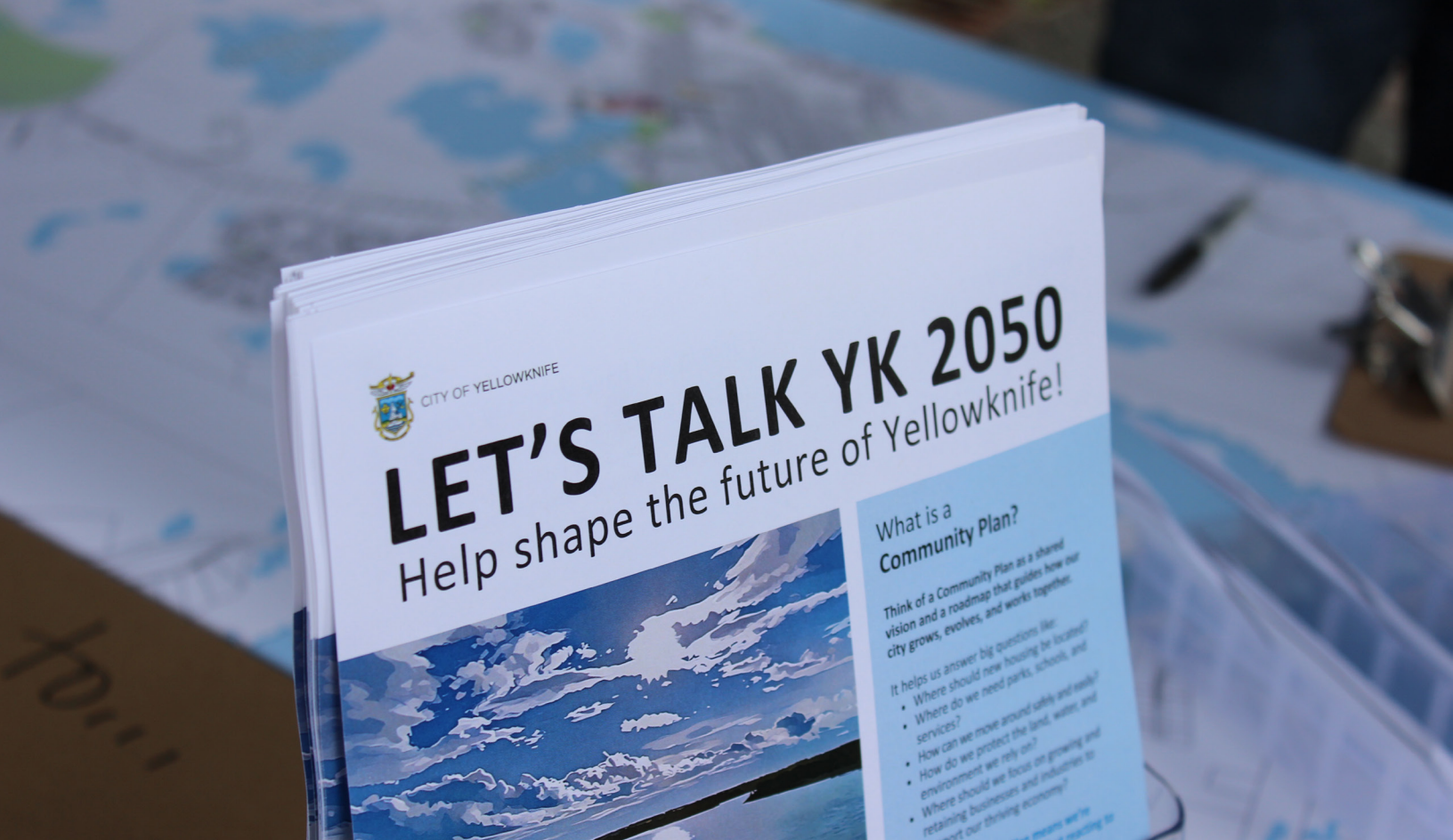
# City of Yellowknife Community Plan Update **Phase 1 Community Engagement Report**

Draft submitted Aug. 25, 2025

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# 1.0 Introduction

The City of Yellowknife's Planning & Development Team is currently working on a **comprehensive Community Plan Update**, which seeks to address **evolving challenges of the moment**, such as: climate change; limited lands, servicing constraints, and housing affordability; economic resilience; public safety; and social equity, while also considering **future conditions** as informed by forecasting data and projections.

Given the direct impacts of policies and investments on the quality of life and well-being of Yellowknifers, the City has **now completed Phase 1 of a three-phased Community Engagement Project** ('the Project'), which is providing opportunities for residents, businesses, and community organizations to share perspectives about what they want for the city now, and what they see for the city looking ahead to the next 25 years.

The objective of Phase 1 Public Engagement is to **inform a shared vision** for the future of Yellowknife and **identify thematic goals** for the Community Plan Update that can be directly connected to strategic policies and help in the city's sustainable growth for decades to come.

Keep reading to understand the **Approach** to Phase 1 Engagement and to find a **Summary of Findings**, from which the Community Plan Update's **Vision** and **Thematic Goals** (to follow) have been extracted.

# 2.0 Approach

**The City of Yellowknife staff and the Community Engagement Team ('the consultants') designed an engagement approach in an effort to shape the Community Plan Update by a wide range of voices, perspectives, and lived experiences.**

The approach is intended to: be inclusive of Yellowknife's diverse communities; align with the City's Accessibility Policy; and respect Indigenous engagement protocols. The plan for Phase 1 engagement defines clear project messages and maps key community organizations to support targeted outreach and to engage community partners directly through the work of Community Animators ('CAs') and a Community Advisory Table ('CAT').

## Promotion & Outreach

On May 23, 2025, City Planning & Development and Communications staff, together with the Community Engagement Team, conducted a network mapping exercise. This began with a large list of potential community organizations, from which lead contacts were identified and outreach responsibilities were assigned between the City and Community Engagement Team. This session also covered communication platforms, tools, and logistics for Phase 1 engagement.

The City issued its first public communications for '**Let's Talk YK 2050**'—the Project's official name—with a press release on June 16, 2025, linking to the project's website and PlaceSpeak page. Application forms for CAs and CAT were promoted through media, mapped networks, online channels, direct outreach, and word-of-mouth.

*Table 1: Let's Talk YK 2025 Promotion Channels*

Promotion Channel	Publication / 'Share' Date
City of Yellowknife media release on web <b>Imagine Yellowknife in 2050 - Let's Plan It Together</b>	June 16, 2025
City of Yellowknife project webpage <b>Community Plan Comprehensive Update</b>	June 16, 2025
City of Yellowknife social media: <b>Facebook, @ouryellowknife + Instagram, @ouryellowknife</b>	Starting June 16, 2025 and ongoing
City of Yellowknife PlaceSpeak - questionnaire launch <b>Let's Talk YK 2050 (Community Plan Comprehensive Update)</b>	July 7 to August 8, 2025
One-pager information sheets at community organizations, bulletin boards, beside comment card boxes	Starting July 8, 2025 and ongoing
Community Advisory Table members - direct outreach, social media, own community networks	Starting July 8, 2025 and ongoing





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# Overview of CA & CAT Roles

## Community Animators ('CAs')

The roles and responsibilities of Community Animators are to:

- Help to set-up and tear down events, which may include arranging materials, setting up signage, and occasionally lifting/carrying items (e.g., boxes of supplies, small tables).
- Distribute flyers throughout the community
- Support facilitation of engagement sessions and outreach activities
- Assist with data collection (surveys, interviews, informal conversations) and note-taking
- Encourage participation of passersby during public activations
- Act as trusted connectors within your community
- Receive mentorship and training throughout the project

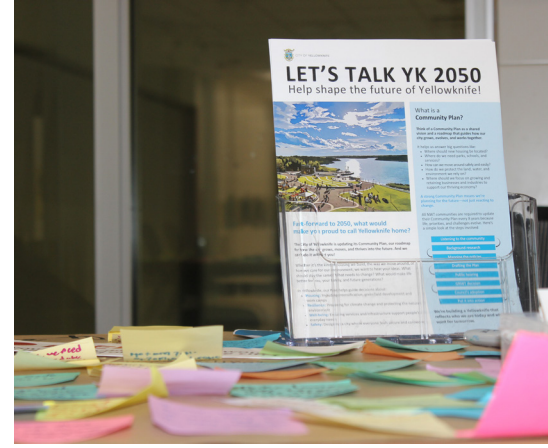
## Community Advisory Table ('CAT')

The roles and responsibilities of the volunteer Community Advisory Table (CAT) members are to:

- Guide engagement approaches and advise on methods
- Review and offer feedback on draft engagement materials
- Support recruitment of Community Ambassadors by leveraging their community networks
- Help disseminate engagement opportunities through their community networks.
- Represent diverse voices from across the community
- Attend at least one meeting per month with the project team







## Phase 1 Engagement Activities

### Community Advisory Table and Community Animators

Two application forms were promoted widely to the public, and on July 8, the Community Engagement Team convened two key groups, the **Community Advisory Table (CAT)** and **Community Animators**, in separate sessions, to launch their involvement in the Community Plan Update. These orientation meetings introduced the project's engagement phases, roles, and expectations, and explored ways to reach community members through each participant's networks. Communication and support methods for the Project's duration were also discussed.

The CAT gathered first for a lunch meet-and-greet, while Community Animators joined a smaller group training and orientation session in the afternoon. During the CAT meeting, advisory members recommended expanding beyond the three planned pop-up locations. In response, the Community Engagement Team added a fourth site and an additional pop-up event to have a broader community reach.

### Pop-up Activations

Pop-up engagement events invited residents to place notes on a Vision Board. The visuals included a community map, an invitation to write, draw, or verbally dictate responses, and to add dots to upvote others' ideas. The public was engaged by the Community Engagement Team, Community Animators, and City staff, to reflect on two guiding questions:

- Present day: "I am Yellowknife! What do you treasure most about me today?"
- Future vision: "My YK in 2050... What would you like to see, feel, or experience?"

Pop-ups were held at:

- Farmer's Market – July 8 (evening)
- Lakeshore Co-op – July 9 (morning & afternoon)
- Aquatic Centre – July 9 (evening) & July 10 (morning)
- Canadian Tire – July 10 (afternoon)







## Comment Cards

To capture additional input, comment cards were placed alongside comment boxes at the Aquatic Centre, Multiplex, Library, and City Hall from July 10 to August 8. This gave community members an opportunity to contribute to Phase 1 engagement activities using an analog format, if that is their preference. Comment cards were also distributed at a youth ballgame through a Community Animator.

Comment Card preview: Back

### HOW TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS

We want your vision for Yellowknife's future! Your input will help shape the Community Plan Update, which will guide Yellowknife's growth for years to come. Use the other side of this card to tell us what changes you want to see.

1. **Look at the bubbles** on the front of the card.
2. **Write or draw your ideas** about the changes you want to see, in the blank space provided.
3. **Draw arrows to connect your ideas** to any related bubble(s).

**Need some inspiration? Here are some prompts to help get you thinking.**

- Housing Options
- Food Access & Security
- Health & Wellness
- Feeling Safe
- Job Opportunities
- Entrepreneurs
- Makers & Crafters
- Education & Skills
- Local Shops & Retail
- Local Arts & Culture
- Heritage
- Community Legacy
- Events & Festivals
- Public Spaces & Play
- Socializing & Meeting People
- Parks & Open Spaces
- Trails
- Protecting Nature
- Walkways & Bike Lanes
- Transportation & Mobility
- Access to Services
- Energy Efficiency
- Waste Management
- Utility Services

**Check out this as an example:**

**LET'S TALK YK 2050**  
To make Yellowknife better for everyone, **changes** I'd like to see by 2050 (as a result of implementing the Community Plan Update) include...

*I'd love for our downtown to feel more alive in the winter. It would be great to see more unique local shops to pop into.*

*I want to be able to buy more food that's grown right here. It would be amazing if we had more community gardens and supported our local producers.*

*Getting from one place to another*

Flip the card for instructions!

Don't have time to fill your card right now? No problem! Take it with you. When you're ready, just snap a photo of the final version and send it to [letstalkYK2050@yellowknife.ca](mailto:letstalkYK2050@yellowknife.ca)! Or, drop it off at a comment box located at the City Hall, Aquatic Centre, Multiplex or Library.

Comment Card preview: Front

### LET'S TALK YK 2050

To make Yellowknife better for everyone, **changes** I'd like to see by 2050 (as a result of implementing the Community Plan Update) include...

**Working in YK**  
Our economy

**Living in YK**  
Our home, day-to-day life, access to services, and sense of community

**Green YK**  
Our environment

**Proudly YK**  
What makes us unique and new reasons to be proud

**Moving around YK**  
Getting from one place to another

Flip the card for instructions!

## PlaceSpeak Survey & Noticeboard

The **PlaceSpeak webpage** launched on June 16, **alongside the project website** and press release. Finalized on July 7, the survey opened before the pop-ups were hosted and remained active until August 8, 2025. This platform provided an accessible, online opportunity for residents to share their vision for Yellowknife's future and respond to a range of mixed questions with multiple-choice and open-ended response options.

Combined, these activities offered multiple, flexible ways for residents to contribute, ensuring diverse perspectives were heard and recorded in Phase 1 engagement activities.

Table 2: Participation Rates

Phase 1 Engagement Activity	Participation Rate	Date
Community Advisory Table (CAT) orientation meeting	7 in-person CAT members + 2 indicated interest in joining at a later date	July 8, 2025
Community Animators orientation + training	3 in-person CAs + 1 indicated interest in joining at a later date	July 8, 2025
Pop-up events (6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Farmer's Market (1)</li><li>• Lakeshore Co-op (2)</li><li>• Aquatic Centre (2)</li><li>• Canadian Tire (1)</li></ul>	210 unique responses on Vision Board	July 8 - 10, 2025
<a href="#">PlaceSpeak</a> - Questionnaire	74 survey responses	July 7 to August 8, 2025
<a href="#">PlaceSpeak</a> - Notice Board	2 comments (as of Aug. 22)	Starting July 7, 2025, ongoing
Community Animator directs outreach and comment card boxes (4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aquatic Centre</li><li>• Multiplex</li><li>• Library</li><li>• City Hall</li></ul>	16 unique responses	July 10 to August 8, 2025

## Analysis

Taking all community input received from the aforementioned activities, the Community Engagement Team analyzed the perspectives shared. Common themes quickly emerged, as presented in the following 'Summary of Findings' section. This input directly informs the Vision and Thematic Goals proposed for the Community Plan Update.

# 3.0 Summary of Findings

**This section highlights what the community shared throughout Phase 1 engagement activities. It reflects the values, priorities, and aspirations residents associate with life in Yellowknife today and their hopes for the future. The findings capture both opportunities and challenges—ranging from housing and growth to mobility, natural spaces, and community identity—and provide a foundation for shaping the Community Plan Update.**

Findings have been organized into six themes:

- Living in YK
- Natural YK
- Working in YK
- Proudly YK
- Moving Around YK
- Growing YK

Based on learnings from data analysis, these themes have evolved from those used in the engagement activities. Specifically:

- “Natural YK” was previously “Green YK,” though has been updated because community insights about the natural environment equally focus on the land and the lakes.
- “Growing YK” is a new theme added, because of the breadth of sentiment shared in pop-ups, comment cards and questionnaire responses with respect to growth.

The following pages include two levels of data analysis, as follows:

1. A summary of the ideas, insights and concerns gathered from people participating in Phase 1 engagement activities (“participants”);
2. Interpretations of the data, as it relates to applicability to the Community Plan Update, for the City’s consideration.

Readers will notice multiple insights apply to multiple themes, illustrating the interconnections of policy areas and critical considerations.

*Note: This Summary of Findings represents recurring key insights gathered and does not necessarily reflect the views of all people engaged.*





The thing I treasure most about Yellowknife is people. Living here for 29 years, there have been relationships that come and go as Yellowknife is still a transient place to live, however, I have made some long-lasting, wonderful friendships here. The sense of community is still one of the best in Canada.

- Survey participant

# Living in YK

## Overview

‘Living in YK’ reflects how residents experience daily life, from the vibrancy of public spaces, to the accessibility of housing, and the sense of safety and belonging in community. Participants consistently underscore the importance of spaces that bring people together year-round, work toward dignity and inclusion, and reflect the city’s cultural & land-based identity.

## Desired Outcomes

Looking ahead to 2050, Yellowknifers want to see...

- Extended seasonal use of public and recreational spaces
- More spaces for social experiences (i.e., shopping, recreation and culture)
- Underused assets repurposed for social and economic benefit
- Creative, artistic & maker spaces and activations
- Place-based activations, particularly for young children and youth
- A revitalized downtown that is animated, vibrant and safe
- Infrastructure improvements and investments that enhance overall safety in public spaces
- Mixed-income housing
- Diversity of housing types and tenure
- Mutual care and respect for First Nations, Métis and Inuit neighbours
- Indigenous visibility, including through placekeeping
- Community care, healing, and recovery for vulnerable populations
- Safe spaces for people experiencing homelessness
- Cleanliness, upkeep and beautification of urban and natural spaces
- Broader public access to basic sanitation facilities (i.e., washrooms)



## Public Spaces and Community Realms

Residents emphasize the importance of vibrant and inclusive shared public spaces as central to the local identity and quality of life. While there is a consensus among participants that existing indoor recreation spaces meet community needs at present, there is a desire for more diversification, particularly as it relates to satisfying the needs of specific groups (i.e., young children, youth, seniors). In particular, there is a demand to diversify public spaces to appeal to multiple user profiles year-round, through different but simultaneous experiences and activities. There is special consideration for youth, as participants fear young people will continue to leave the city if dedicated youth-focused spaces and programming don't emerge. This speaks to a demand for more diversity of programming and the adaptability of existing spaces, rather than simply adding new facilities.

Trails and outdoor spaces are a point of pride, and for some, the reason they live in Yellowknife. There is an expectation that the City continue building on these successes, including trails that connect Old Town and Downtown, natural pathways that also serve as community walkways, and mixed-use trails for dog walking, running, and biking. Given a strong connection to green spaces, residents call for ways to extend the "green experience" into winter by "bringing the outside in" through greenhouses and covered gardens.

Revitalizing underused facilities is another recurring theme. Repeat mentions about the declining mall underscore a sense of loss of a casual social space, as YK residents seek mixed-use experiences where shopping, culture, and recreation coexist. Revitalizing existing commercial spaces to create places where people can linger, gather, and feel part of the community is a priority for participants.

### Supporting Insights

- Community members call for more cultural events and festivals to animate downtown and neighbourhoods. The Farmer's Market, Snowking Festival, and Ramble & Ride are noted as sources of pride. There is also expressed interest in reviving Raven Mad Daze.
- There is a desire for recreational spaces and events to better reflect Yellowknife's cultural diversity for the sake of inclusion and multicultural representation.
- Repurposing underused facilities, such as transforming the old pool into a library or tourism hub, is seen as a creative way to bring spaces back into use.
- Land-based activities such as camping, paddling, and nature-based learning are described by participants as integral to Yellowknife's identity. Residents say these experiences are essential for recreation and seen as essential to living in and learning from the land.

## Downtown Revitalization

Downtown Yellowknife is widely seen as underperforming, with many residents describing it as unsafe, unattractive, and lacking vibrancy. People want a downtown that is safe and lively, with mixed-use development, affordable rentals, and places to hang out that bring life to this corner of the city. The stagnation and decline of commercial and retail activity are ongoing barriers to revitalization, which is viewed as essential to restoring pride and making downtown a place where people want to gather.

### Supporting Insights

- Residents want more animated public spaces in the downtown, including parks and bike-friendly connections, that promote everyday activity, as well as patios, events, and cultural activities to extend vitality beyond business hours.
- Festivals, cultural programming, and support for local businesses were suggested as strategies to bring people downtown and support commercial vitality.

## Sense of Safety

Safety in public spaces, especially downtown, is one of the most consistent concerns raised, and long-term residents long for the vibrant downtown core they used to know. There is a strong desire to feel safe walking anytime, anywhere in the city.

Participants link feelings of unsafety to antisocial behaviour, visible homelessness, and a lack of support for vulnerable populations. There is a recognition that safety and public wellness are tightly linked, and that meaningful solutions must balance enforcement with dignity and care, addressing perceptions of safety as well as the underlying issues of housing, mental health, and visible distress in public spaces. There is an appetite for community-based, preventative approaches to safety and collective action, such as organized walks, community care models, and visibility efforts that emphasize protection without over-surveillance.

### Supporting Insights:

- Key identified strategies to enhance perceptions of safety in public spaces include: animating public spaces, improved infrastructure, and extending use of places/placemaking throughout the year
- Community-based, preventative approaches for increasing safety include organized walks, community care models, and visible support structures.





## Housing and Affordability

Residents highlight major gaps in the supply of diverse housing (e.g., single-family homes, multi-family units, suites and apartments) and tenures (e.g., affordable ownership, affordable rental, public housing, market rental/ownership) that meet the needs of diverse demographics, incomes, and life stages. There is a perception that monopolies and a lack of competition in the rental market exacerbate affordability challenges. Further, participants see limited options for youth, students, newcomers, and temporary workers as a barrier to inclusion and growth.

Concerns also exist about the adequacy of social housing, citing issues of safety, maintenance, and suitability for different user needs. At the same time, residents are proud of the inclusiveness of many neighbourhoods, emphasizing a strong preference for mixed-income communities and discomfort with high-income-only developments.

Housing is further seen as an economic development issue. Affordable workforce rentals, student housing, and mixed-use developments are viewed as essential to retaining residents, supporting the labour force, and growing local opportunities. Land availability and supportive policies are considered critical tools in addressing housing needs, with many residents calling for a balance between new development and conservation. Perspectives point to support for a mixed-tenure approach that balances rental and ownership options across income levels and life stages. Many want to age in place, but cite a lack of accessible housing for seniors. Others stress the need for shelters tailored to different groups, opposing one-size-fits-all solutions for unhoused residents.

### Supporting insights:

- Social housing is seen to be inadequate, with recurring concerns about maintenance, safety, and suitability for different residents.
- Land availability is flagged as a critical challenge, with residents calling for growth policies that balance development with conservation.
- Sustainability incentives such as solar and biomass are highlighted as desirable tools for building a livable Yellowknife in 2050.

## Indigenous Community Care and Visibility

Cultural recognition and Indigenous visibility are seen to be essential to community well-being. Yellowknife community members, including those who self-identified as Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants, emphasize the need for the City to work with First Nations, Métis and Inuit neighbours today and for tomorrow, to honour Yellowknife's Indigenous roots and make culture visible in everyday life.

There is a strong call to prioritize community support and care that is inclusive of, and appropriate for, Indigenous residents of Yellowknife, as well as a strong emphasis on Indigenous-led healing and care models. Residents highlight the importance of trauma and addiction centres grounded in Indigenous approaches, as well as cultural camps that provide safe, land-based spaces for recovery and reflection close to core services (ideally within walking distance to services, such as shelters).

Participants view relationships between the City and Indigenous governments and organizations as both necessary and require resources to understand their significant and direct implications on the city's future development. Some expressed calls to work with the Greater Northwest Territories ('GNWT') to settle land claims.

Mutual care—not just service delivery—is understood as the foundation of reconciliation. There is a thread of language rooted in walking together, listening, and caring across community boundaries. Local Indigenous voices are asking what the City will do for Indigenous people, and how it will walk with them.

### Supporting Insights

- Calls for an Indigenous cultural centre and ceremonial spaces are recurring priorities.
- Safety for Indigenous women and girls is consistently raised as an urgent issue.





## Community Wellness

Wellness in Yellowknife is shaped by visible challenges of homelessness, substance use, and trauma, which residents describe as urgent community-wide concerns. These issues affect safety, livability, and pride, and participants say that solutions must address root causes rather than rely solely on crisis response. There is a consensus that concerns must be prioritized through policies and strategies that address shelter capacity and service quality, as well as the lived social experience of homelessness and addiction in public spaces.

Participants are calling for clearer coordination—as well as accountability and action—between municipal and territorial responsibilities or governments, with investments in sobering centres, safe spaces, and wraparound supports that restore dignity and hope. While the gap in municipal facilities for wellness support is a major concern, proactive community-based initiatives are seen to be part of the well-being support ecosystem, such as investments in activities that promote mental health care, community pride, and connection.

Many link wellness to the everyday quality of public space, emphasizing the importance of places that are clean, cared for, and welcoming. Public cleanliness, accessible washrooms, and upkeep of trails and parks are noted as visible signs of civic responsibility.

### Supporting Insights

- Residents want more respectful, safe, and dignified shelter spaces.
- Yellowknife wants to see investment in programs, services, and places that embody hope, action, and care, for those currently struggling and for the broader community.
- Placemaking and social vibrancy are seen as critical contributors to community mental well-being.

## Community Sanitation and Environmental Maintenance

Public cleanliness is closely tied to community pride, and residents have concerns about the consistency and quality of services that support upkeep of trails, parks, and open spaces. Many say that investment in sanitation infrastructure and maintenance (i.e., public washrooms, recycling and garbage facilities, etc.) is needed to ensure public spaces remain usable, welcoming, and reflective of civic care. Access to basic facilities, such as public washrooms, is identified as a gap that affects the quality and usability of parks and gathering areas.

### Supporting Insights

- Visible care for the natural environment, such as tree trimming and compost access, is seen as a signal of civic responsibility.
- Residents suggest small but meaningful touches, such as planting flowers instead of grass, to enhance the city's appearance.
- Calls were made for more garbage bins in specific areas, including Tin Can Hill and along Frame Lake trail, particularly for dog waste.



**I treasure the rocks, trees and lake, the public green spaces, and the innovative and functional buildings that blend into the natural landscape. I want Yellowknife to protect and celebrate our unique place as a capital and multicultural city in the northern Boreal forest. That means protecting public open spaces along the waterfront, the rocks that are view points and buffers, and the green spaces that nurture the mental health and wellness of the city.**

*- Survey participant*

# Natural YK

## Overview

This theme reflects how residents see nature and the environment as central to Yellowknife's identity. Community feedback emphasizes the need to protect natural assets for future generations, while also enhancing access and connectivity so residents can continue to enjoy the city's unique relationship with the land and water.

## Desired Outcomes

Looking ahead to 2050, Yellowknifers want to see...

- Protection of the city's natural gems regardless of growth and densification
- Enhanced public access to and connection of lakes, trails and other natural spaces
- Expanded buffer zones around lakes
- Public green spaces serve a greater diversity of recreational uses and users
- Improved public amenities and infrastructure around trails



## Protecting Green and Blue Assets

Green and blue spaces are recognized as signature assets of Yellowknife, and are central to the local identity. There is a strong, shared desire amongst participants to protect natural features from future development or privatization, especially rock formations, lakeshores, and natural trails. Specific areas such as Great Slave Lake, Grace Lake, Frame Lake, Jackfish Lake, Tin Can Hill, Willow Flats, and Con Mine trails are frequently mentioned as places where participants feel conservation must be prioritized for the sake of long-term community access and ecological integrity.

Participants want to see public green spaces further animated, to serve diverse uses and users while retaining their natural character. They do not want to see the openness and character of natural spaces compromised for the sake of growth, and protecting access to these areas is consistently described as a long-term community priority.

Further, there is a concern about how climate change may alter access to these spaces, which underscores the importance of long-term planning and resilient infrastructure to protect Yellowknife's signature assets.

### Supporting Insights

- Residents want extended buffer zones around lakes to protect environmental integrity while allowing for public access and recreation.
- The ability to access nature and trails without relying on a car is seen as a defining feature of Yellowknife's lifestyle and one that residents want to preserve.

## Enhancing Access and Connectivity

There is a desire amongst participants to animate and better connect the city's green and blue spaces. Parks and trails are valued for their ability to bring people together across generations, support passive recreation, and foster social gathering. Further, there is appreciation for local access to natural spaces without needing a car, which participants say is a distinctive feature of Yellowknife's lifestyle that they want to see maintained. Connectivity across the city's trail networks is a priority, particularly around lakes, where residents value passive recreation such as sitting on a favourite rock, alongside requests to improve the continuity of lakeside trails and expand amenities such as signage, washrooms, and safety measures.

Participants also express enthusiasm for expanded access to water-based activities. Suggestions include canoe and paddle rentals, and improved public access to Great Slave Lake. These ideas reflect a vision of waterfront experiences that are more activated, connected, and inclusive.

### Supporting Insights

- Participants spoke to a desire to see longer, connected green trails, such as Frame Lake to Fred Henne. A water path from Rotary Park to Lathan Island is another idea echoed.
- Ideas for multi-use and animated park spaces include having more assets like dog parks, playgrounds and seating areas.



“

By 2050, Yellowknife's economy thrives on a mix of sustainable resource development, clean energy projects, and a growing tech and cultural sector. Job opportunities are diverse and inclusive, with strong support for local entrepreneurs through innovation hubs and accessible funding. Community partnerships between Indigenous groups, businesses, and government create resilient supply chains and shared prosperity. Local businesses adapt quickly to changing markets and climate challenges, making Yellowknife a vibrant place to build a career and grow new ventures.

- Survey participant

# Working in YK

## Overview

'Working in YK' reflects residents' concerns about economic opportunity, workforce stability, and the need to build a more resilient, community-oriented economy. Feedback emphasizes both the challenges and the opportunities shaping Yellowknife's local economy, from tourism growth to workforce housing.

## Desired Outcomes

Looking ahead to 2050, Yellowknifers want to see...

- Economic diversification
- Diversification of employment opportunities
- Motivation for the next generation to stay and work in Yellowknife
- Affordable, available housing for workforce
- Affordability and availability of spaces for new businesses
- Downtown as an attractive destination for new businesses
- Infrastructure and space to support local businesses
- Investments in enhanced tourism infrastructure
- Enhanced childcare
- Community-based wealth creation models in place



## Local Economic Development

Residents consistently note a lack of job opportunities, particularly for youth, and express a strong desire for economic diversification beyond government and mining. They call for a transition toward knowledge industries, tourism, and more sustainable sectors. At the same time, they favour the expansion of small, locally-owned businesses (“mom and pop shops”) over large box stores, pointing to a preference for growth that strengthens community fabric. There is an overarching desire for local job creation, with mixed feelings about bringing in outside workers versus a focus on keeping jobs local.

Business instability and turnover is perceived to weaken the city’s economic resilience. Participants point to affordability and availability of business spaces—particularly in the downtown—as well as limited infrastructure, foot traffic, and incentives, as barriers to stability.

Tourism emerges as a recurring priority amongst participants who say there is potential for the sector to drive economic growth, while also acknowledging that this requires investment in tourism-related infrastructure and downtown revitalization. Downtown vitality is seen as interconnected with both tourism potential and business growth, emphasizing the desire amongst participants to have a vibrant and safe downtown that expands its appeal outside of business hours.

### Supporting Insights

- Participants suggest ideas such as year-round indoor vendor spaces or winter markets to support and sustain local entrepreneurship.
- A university is seen as a transformative investment for diversifying the economy and retaining young people.

## Workforce Supports

Housing affordability and availability for the workforce are major concerns, tied to workforce retention, with calls for price regulation or improved quality of worker accommodations. Participants emphasize that stable, affordable housing is essential to attracting and retaining employees across sectors. Childcare also surfaces as a major workforce issue, as a lack of accessible childcare prevents many parents from fully participating in the local economy.

### Supporting Insights

- On-site childcare was identified as a solution to reduce barriers to employment. downtown and support commercial vitality.

## Circular and Sustainable Economy

Participants express strong support for community-based models of wealth creation and retention, such as co-operatives, as alternatives to traditional business structures. This points to a need for policies that facilitate or incentivize these models. Connected to ‘Natural YK’ themes, sustainable local infrastructure can further support Yellowknife’s economy. Ideas were shared for food security and energy sovereignty, such as local agriculture, biomass fuel and district heating downtown.

### Supporting Insights:

- Local agriculture and greenhouses are other suggestions presented.





**[Yellowknife is] a capital city, Aurora city, and a small city. Stay humble, classic, natural, and sustainable. Nothing wrong with being humble and sustainable. Yellowknife isn't a flashy modern Mecca, so don't try to be something it's not.**

*- Survey participant*

# Proudly YK

## Overview

'Proudly YK' reflects the ways residents describe what makes Yellowknife unique and why they feel connected to the community. Pride in place is rooted in both people and nature, expressed through community closeness, cultural vibrancy, built form, and cherished natural assets.

## Desired Outcomes

Looking ahead to 2050, Yellowknifers want to see...

- A city that is:
  - vibrant, safe, and thriving
  - welcoming, and inclusive
- A community that is:
  - caring and connected
  - friendly
  - artistic
- The Northern community essence reflected in design, beautification, placemaking, and new developments
- Diversity celebrated through inclusive infrastructure, spaces, programming, and community events
- Visible growth in cultural and religious infrastructure
- New communal amenities (e.g., aquatic centre, basketball courts, bike trails)
- Connection to land through trails, water, and views
- Ongoing protection of and access to green and blue spaces



## Essence and Identity

Residents emphasize that proximity to nature is foundational to life in Yellowknife, and a defining trait that they say must be preserved. There is a deep appreciation for being steps away from the land, with trails, lakes, and natural areas being walkable from most neighbourhoods and accessible in all seasons. Equally, there is concern about losing natural features to overdevelopment and privatization, given that green and blue spaces are emotional, cultural, and recreational anchors that help foster local quality of life.

Participants say the local essence is further rooted in care, viewing the strong, supportive, and close-knit community as a point of pride. There is a sense of city-wide cultural inclusion, and many see a future in which the city further celebrates diversity through inclusive infrastructure, spaces, programming, and events.

Built form and beautification are also directly linked to community pride. Participants want future development to reflect northern identity, support a walkable and human-scaled city, and create vibrant public spaces that feel welcoming and connected. Cleanliness, beautification, and cultural visibility in new developments are described as signs of community care.

## Supporting Insights

- Some respondents say that access to nature is a core reason why they live in Yellowknife.
- The city's tree canopy and natural features including Frame Lake, Tin Can Hill, Willow Flats, Jackfish Lake, Grace Lake, Great Slave Lake, Con Mine trails are repeatedly mentioned as cherished community assets.
- Facilities like the new aquatic centre, basketball courts, and bike trails are seen as spaces that support wellness and foster community connection.
- The character of Old Town and activations like the Farmers Market, Folk on the Rocks, and Caribou Carnival are repeatedly cited as catalysts for spontaneous social connection, and a feeling of a close-knit community. Residents see these place-based assets integrated into their shared identity, and want these assets protected and expanded as the city grows.



# What makes Yellowknifers proud today?

Through Phase 1 Engagement, participants identified a number of assets they believe should be protected, conserved and/or promoted as the city continues to grow. The following represents a snapshot of these findings:

## Natural assets


- Natural green spaces
- Wildlife and bird sanctuaries
- Green spaces that carry significant values for community
- Connecting paths/walking trails to parks and lake access (Long Lake Beach, Old Town docks to Great Slave Lake)
- Areas that you can access the dark night sky away from lights to see the Aurora
- Significant blue spaces (i.e., lakes, shorelines)
- Boreal forest/rocky areas

## Physical and communal assets

- Heritage buildings and structures
  - Pilots Monument
  - The Woodyard
  - Boat houses
- Seasonal cultural/gathering spaces
  - Snowking Festival
  - Frozen lakes connecting people to the land
  - Skating rinks
  - Folk on the Rock
- Playgrounds adjacent to green space

## Intangible assets connected to sense of community

- Indigenous ways of thinking and doing, traditions, stories, and practices that root people in place
- Mining heritage/"frontier spirit"
- Small-town feel
- Northern pride/"winter city"
- "DIY" feeling (i.e., being able to come up with an idea and follow through with it, such as start a club and get support)
- Quiet city
- Indoor and outdoor gathering spaces and events (i.e., Farmer's Market, fish fry on Indigenous People's Day, etc.)

An aerial photograph of Yellowknife, Canada, showing a mix of urban development and natural landscape. In the foreground, there's a rocky, sparsely vegetated hillside. Below it, a wide, multi-lane road curves through the city. To the left of the road is a large parking lot filled with cars. Further back, various city buildings are visible, including a prominent tall, modern structure. In the background, a large body of water (likely the Beaufort Sea) stretches to the horizon under a clear sky.

**“ As new neighbourhoods are built and old ones revitalized, create “whole city” walking and biking routes that enable people to easily get from any point in the city to another that are safe, avoid traffic, and showcase the natural beauty.**

*- Survey participant*

# Moving Around YK

## Overview

Beyond considerations around getting from Point A to B, ‘Moving Around YK’ is about safety, connection and enjoyment. Residents have pride in the city’s walkability and bikeability, and a strong desire to maintain and expand these advantages as the community grows. At the same time, they call for improved public transit, safer roads, and a more connected trail network that supports year-round use.

## Desired Outcomes

Looking ahead to 2050, Yellowknifers want to see...

- A less car-oriented culture
- Improved active transportation infrastructure (i.e., improved trail connectivity, trail extensions, etc.)
- Enhanced bikability thanks to: better trail connections, network expansion, enhanced safety features (i.e., lighting), year-round maintenance and improved supporting infrastructure (i.e., wayfinding)
- Improved public transportation network, accessibility and supporting services
- Improved road and pedestrian safety
- Existing ease of mobility maintained



## **Movement, Safety & Accessibility**

Yellowknifers take pride in the ease of moving through their city without relying on a car. Walking, biking, and taking the bus already shape daily life, and residents want this to remain a defining feature as the city grows. While some worry that intensification in downtown could reduce the ease of mobility around the city, particularly for drivers, there is a shared vision for shifting away from vehicle dominance toward a city built for people, supported by transit, trails, and thoughtful design.

There is a demand for the city to enable safe, year-round walking and biking. Residents want an extended and connected trail network that supports active transportation and social connection, emphasizing the need for multi-use, all-season design, with amenities such as clear signage, safety features, washrooms, garbage bins, and reliable winter maintenance.

Safe and accessible public transit systems are also top of mind. Specifically, participants would like to see the city address challenges such as limited routes, low frequency, poor signage, and difficulty using the system in cold weather.

Sidewalk and road safety are other concerns as it relates to moving around Yellowknife, and there are calls for calmer residential streets, slower speeds, and infrastructure or enforcement measures that prioritize walkers and bikers,

especially near schools and in neighbourhoods. Sidewalk conditions are a recurring frustration: snow clearing that leaves icy, scraped surfaces without gravel or sand creates hazards, particularly for seniors and families. As snow patterns shift with climate change, residents stress that the City must adapt its practices, moving beyond rigid schedules toward approaches that respond to real conditions.

### **Supporting Insights**

- Proposed opportunities to improve include a “go bus” shuttle service, evening and Sunday service, a student bus pass, and improved transport options for children biking or walking to school (e.g., a “walking school bus” program).
- In addition to better connections, network expansion, and accessibility upgrades, participants would like to see enhanced safety features on bike trails (e.g., bike traffic lights, bike lockers, safe bike parking, visible storage), and supportive infrastructure (e.g., sheds, wayfinding signage, lighting). Proposed solutions to allow for year-round use include: clearing snow in winter, gravel maintenance in summer, and addressing potholes and cracks on bike paths.
- With regard to snow maintenance, some participants suggest additional measures be implemented in residential areas to slow traffic and to make streets feel more welcoming and usable for people on foot.





**“ Yellowknife is inclusive and easy to navigate, has rich traditions and history, and is set in a beautiful part of Canada. Having access to the lakes and camping areas around Yellowknife is amazing. I’d want to make sure we can protect the access to the amazing lakes and facilities we have in Yellowknife while also expanding housing so that more people can stay here to enjoy it.**

*- Survey participant*

# Growing YK

## Overview

‘Growing YK’ reflects community perspectives on how growth impacts quality of life, land use, and the city’s preparations for environmental and social change. Residents want growth that protects Yellowknife’s essence, prioritizes its green and blue spaces, and builds resilience for future generations.

## Desired Outcomes

Looking ahead to 2050, Yellowknifers want to see...

- Preservation of natural spaces and the current community essence (close-knit, caring)
- Protection of the public’s access to natural spaces
- Environmentally-responsible growth, including a mix of housing types, tenure, and services
- Resident/workforce attraction and retention
- Policy levers to control access to valued lands and waters
- Reduced land use conflicts
- Inclusive and adaptive development strategies
- Climate-adaptive infrastructure and City services
- Climate emergency preparedness, with a preventative mindset
- Holistic, long-term climate planning
- Investments in renewable and clean energy
- Established local food systems and self-sufficiency



## Development and Land Use

There is a widespread concern about balancing the need for new development while protecting quality of life, particularly as it relates to access to natural spaces, ease of mobility, and preservation of “the space in between”—that which enables social connection and mobility, and contributes to Yellowknife’s unique identity. Participants value environmentally responsible growth strategies and planning policies that clearly guide where development should (or shouldn’t) occur, explicitly about their demand that no public green space be sacrificed in the name of growth.

While there is demand that densified areas prioritize mixed-use and mixed-income needs, there is also a range of feelings about mixed-use development. For example, while it appears to be strongly supported in the downtown core, there is hesitation in other areas. Similarly, there are mixed feelings on densification overall; residents who are seeking affordability, business opportunities, or future settlement plans tend to express stronger support for in-fill development. Despite these concerns, mixed-use planning is seen as a strong strategy for long-term adaptability.

There is a strong and prevalent call to plan for a diverse and inclusive future by proactively addressing multicultural needs and ensuring that cultural diversity is reflected in upcoming planning and development strategies. This includes accommodating generational change, affordability challenges, and economic conditions so that young people can stay and build their lives in Yellowknife well into adulthood.

### Supporting Insights

- There is little appetite for conflicting land uses, such as residential adjacent to industrial.
- Preventing abandonment and infrastructure decline is flagged as part of long-term development responsibility.
- Residents advocate for leveraging planning and enforcement tools (e.g., policies, fees, incentives) to better manage access to land and to control exclusive development of valued areas.

## Climate Resilience and Green Infrastructure

Participants feel an urgent need for future plans to focus on preparing the city for the short- and long-term impacts of climate change. Residents call for preventive and proactive strategies to reduce the risks and impacts of wildfires, including access to safe indoor spaces with proper air filtration during smoky months. They also want the City’s services, budgeting, and planning to adapt to changing seasonal conditions, such as shifting snow removal practices in response to unpredictable patterns. Looking ahead, residents emphasize the need for long-term planning that safeguards access to trails and natural spaces while building environmental resilience into all aspects of community life.

Adopting green infrastructure and sustainable approaches across energy, mobility (i.e., active transportation), and food systems. A healthier city is seen as the result of planning that integrates food access into broader growth strategies, which has implications for both land-use policies and local economic development, tied to encouraging local agriculture and locally produced food.

This indicates a need for a long-term strategy for the City to transition into climate-smart growth, which includes policies and planning frameworks that consider the interconnected layers of environmental resilience, mobility, housing, energy systems, infrastructure, and sustainable economic & community development.

### Supporting Insights

- There is a clear desire to adopt renewable and green energy strategies, with suggestions including District Biomass Heating in the downtown core, renewable diesel, biofuels, and a complete shift away from fossil fuels by 2050.
- There is a shared vision for a future that is less car-oriented and more focused on green modes of mobility and transit.



# 4.0 Vision

Perspectives gleaned from community engagement inform the following Vision for the Community Plan Update:

In 2050, Yellowknife is a **healthy, multicultural, and resilient** city that honours its unique identity while **embracing innovation and change**. Our community is **inclusive and caring** of the needs and values of all residents. We **honour, recognize, and respect the rights of Indigenous peoples** in this region.

Our **growth is smart and sustainable**, thoughtfully balancing community revitalization, intensification and growth with the **preservation** of the cherished landscapes, pristine lakeshores, and our built environment that together define our city's unique Northern character.

A wide **network of trails connects our neighbourhoods and residents** to the outdoors, and encourages a culture of active living. A **deep appreciation for our natural environment** is a shared practice.

A **revitalized, safe, and welcoming downtown** serves as the heart of our community. It is a place for everyone, bustling with local businesses, cultural activities, and animated public life.

As a **leader in climate resilience**, our city has embraced **innovative and environmentally-responsible planning** to build a **healthy and self-sufficient future**, where **climate-readiness and a long-term commitment to mitigation** guide every decision the City makes.

A range of **affordable and attainable housing, accessible recreation** opportunities, and a **vibrant cultural scene** attract and retain people of all ages. Our city is a place where **everyone belongs**, with a rich tapestry of artistic, active, and economic opportunities that honour its multicultural fabric and provide a high quality of life for all..

# 5.0 Thematic Goals

Perspectives gleaned from community engagement inform the following Thematic Goals for the Community Plan Update:

## Living in YK

- Mixed housing options, affordability spanning incomes, and various tenure types across the city foster inclusion and livability for all residents.
- Downtown revitalization supports local businesses, cultural activities, and an animated, safe social environment for all.
- Public and community spaces support multigenerational, inclusive, and year-round community life.
- Approaches to care, healing, and recovery are inclusive of, and appropriate for, all Indigenous residents.
- Sustained investment in sanitation infrastructure and the consistent upkeep of public open spaces maintain a clean and safe public realm.

## Natural YK

- The integrity of Yellowknife's natural gems is protected as the city grows.
- Public access to lakes and green spaces is enhanced and expanded.
- Blue and green spaces are animated for environmentally friendly, passive recreational uses.

## Working in YK

- Local businesses have access to affordable, quality spaces, incentives, and enabling ecosystems that help them stay and thrive.
- Community wealth-building models, such as co-operatives and locally owned businesses, are supported.
- Affordable, quality workforce housing is prioritized as essential infrastructure.
- Workforce development and attraction prioritize youth needs, local retention, and community-based employment.
- Tourism is supported through investment in infrastructure, accommodations, and experiences that reflect local identity.
- The downtown core is positioned as a central draw for local makers and creators, and other small business owners.

## Proudly YK

- Cultural diversity is celebrated through inclusive infrastructure, spaces, programming, and community events
- The city's built form reflects the aesthetics, identity, and Northern character that make Yellowknife distinct.
- Walkable, bikable, human-scaled public spaces support community connection and reflect shared local pride.
- Yellowknife's lakes, rock formations, trails, and tree canopy remain core to the city's character and residents' everyday lives.

## Moving Around YK

- Ease of mobility across city, particularly to and from downtown area, is maintained,
- Accessible and expanded public transit connects residents to services, neighbourhoods, and community amenities across the city.
- Active transportation infrastructure is well-connected, safe, and usable year-round for walking, cycling, and non-motorized mobility.
- A connected, extended trail network links all neighbourhoods to each other and to Yellowknife's significant green and blue gems.
- Street design prioritizes safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists.

## Growing YK

- Development is balanced with maintaining the quality of public, green, and blue spaces.
- Growth strategies maintain the community essence, leaving space between built forms and embracing a feeling of openness.
- New development is guided by land use strategies that avoid conflicting uses and enable adaptable, mixed-use, and inclusive built form.
- Culturally-inclusive and affordability-sensitive growth maintains Yellowknife a place where people of all backgrounds can build their future.
- Risks are reduced through emergency preparedness and climate-resilient infrastructure.
- Green infrastructure, energy sovereignty, and food security are prioritized in development.



# 6.0 What's Next

**In Phases 2 and 3, the Engagement Team will deepen the conversation, moving from broad vision and thematic goals towards detailed policy directions for the updated Community Plan.**

Phase 2 will begin with an internal City workshop to reflect on the current Plan, identify gaps, and reaffirm priorities. The Community Engagement Team will then host focus group community conversations on specific topics: land use & intensification, housing & work camps, environment & climate resilience, and infrastructure & transportation. A second City workshop will close the loop, comparing themes from community conversations with internal priorities to strengthen alignment.

*Table 3: Phase 2 Focus Groups*

Session	Specific Dates, Times	Virtual or In-Person
Land Use & Intensification	Sept. 9, 5:30 p.m. MT	In-person
Housing & Work Camps	Sept. 11, 5:30 p.m. MT	In-person
Land Use & Intensification	Sept. 16, 3-5 p.m. MT	Virtual
Housing & Work Camps	Sept. 18, 3-5 p.m. MT	Virtual
Environment & Climate	Oct. 2, 3-5 p.m. MT	Virtual
Infrastructure & Transportation	Oct 14, 5:30 p.m. MT	Virtual
Infrastructure & Transportation	Oct. 16, 3-5 p.m. MT	Virtual

Phase 3 will focus on refining the draft Community Plan Update with the community. The team will test key directions through engagement activities such as a public event, shaped in collaboration with the Community Advisory Table, in addition to online tools and community discussions. This approach further works to ensure the Plan reflects shared priorities before it moves to the Governance and Priorities Committee for consideration.

# Appendix A:

## Questionnaire Quotes

The following quotes have been extracted from the Questionnaire, supporting the Summary of Findings found in Section 3.

### Living in YK

"I love the mix of nature and city. I love the amenities all in one small town. I love that there is a small distance to cover here. There is lots of water. Great community spirit. And folks willing to put in an effort to make this place great."

"Yellowknife used to have a vibrant downtown core that has eroded over time primarily due to the homeless situation. I used to love going downtown and now I avoid it all costs."

"My family has lived here nearly 100 years. I don't want to, but am thinking of leaving because despite my own meaningful work and relationships here, there are not opportunities for my spouse in their field, nor government/municipal programs to support them in building something new for the city/NWT."

"I like the access to amenities including green spaces all within walking distance and infrastructure that supports and encourages walking."

"Our community has a place for everyone, regardless of their interests. Our artistic community, in particular, is wonderful! I love the small town feel Yellowknife has, without falling victim to the traps of many small towns... I love being able to access green space essentially out my back door ... but also being able to mix things up by going to Frame Lake, or Ranney Hill, or Big Hill. When we evacuated in 2023, I went to Edmonton initially, and (and I cannot emphasize this enough) I hated every minute of it. I resented so deeply needing to drive everywhere for everything. How the experience felt like an existence based on consumption, not on community. How isolated I felt since everything required a car to get to. I love living somewhere where I don't need a car on a day-to-day basis and I feel unbelievably lucky to have never had to drive to work each day. These things are the standards I hold other towns to when I visit and none have met these standards so far. Yellowknife is home. I want it to stay this wonderful, open, friendly, creative, small-town with easy access to green space for everyone (and their dogs). This is why I live here."

"The thing I treasure most about Yellowknife is people. Living here for 29 years, there have been relationships that come and go as Yellowknife is still a transient place to live, however, I have made some long lasting wonderful friendships here. The sense of community, though questioned over social media from time to time, is still one of the best in Canada."

"That it is a territorial and national hub for events and attractions. That there are so many ways to connect with other citizens through events, locally-powered clubs, activities, opportunities to learn, and events. That the city creates and fosters ways for people to engage with each other and the environment: community gardens, ski trails, kids sports and recreational spaces, playgrounds for neighbourhoods, walking trails, the beautiful open area at Samba Ke for walking, biking, graduations, yoga, and permits so many outdoor activities. Allowing food vendors in the summer. Allowing the healing camp behind the complex. Tanning camps at Samba Ke Park. Finding ways to make fun things possible indoors and out. I hope that these are things that continue."



## Natural YK

"I treasure the rocks, trees and lake, the public green spaces, and the innovative and functional buildings that blend into the natural landscape. I want Yellowknife to protect and celebrate our unique place as a capital and multi-cultural city in the northern Boreal forest. That means protecting public open spaces along the waterfront, the rocks that are view points and buffers, and the green spaces that nurture the mental health and wellness of the city."

"The natural setting and winter. Both will become rare in future and should be cherished. Lake access and ice access. Clean snow. Clean air. What makes this place special is the people, tradition of care, and the time free up from commuting to become the best of yourself."

"Yellowknife is inclusive, and easy to navigate. Has rich traditions and history and is set in a beautiful part of Canada. Having access to the lakes and camping areas around Yellowknife is amazing. I'd want to make sure we can protect the access to the amazing lakes and facilities we have in Yellowknife while also expanding housing so that more people can stay here to enjoy it."

"While this is not my area of expertise, it is very important to me that areas with healthy biodiversity and small ecosystems are rigorously protected, and that those spaces can co-exist with public, community spaces. I don't believe they are separate. They encourage us to move more mindfully throughout our environment and invite incredible opportunities to play and learn."

## Working in YK

"We need to encourage businesses to grow but it also needs to be affordable for business to move into commercial spaces. Encourage business and support local when working with contractors for community projects."

"Transition to a knowledge and tourism economy, diversification from government and mines, support for a vibrant retail sector focused downtown and old town."

"I've watched stores and places I love close down (fat fox, Iceblink, bijou, and others in the mini mall). I'd like to see more opening up which means having real estate available. And supports in place to help get new places off the ground."

"Services, Shops, Cafes, Businesses are more distributed throughout the city. My neighbourhood has a corner grocer, and several gardens that allow us to purchase or grow local food. The city is now home to a university that attracts not only students, but professors, researchers, entrepreneurs, and regular workers that are a part of the city now." (*Speaking to vision for 2050*)

"By 2050, Yellowknife's economy thrives on a mix of sustainable resource development, clean energy projects, and a growing tech and cultural sector. Job opportunities are diverse and inclusive, with strong support for local entrepreneurs through innovation hubs and accessible funding. Community partnerships between Indigenous groups, businesses, and government create resilient supply chains and shared prosperity. Local businesses adapt quickly to changing markets and climate challenges, making Yellowknife a vibrant place to build a career and grow new ventures."

## Proudly YK

"I enjoy how Yellowknife itself feels like a community, big enough to have smaller communities within but still with threads that seem to connect most throughout it. I love that there is always something going on, events wise."

"Multiculturalism with Dene oversight and values. Small town feel with thriving local businesses and festivals I love that Yellowknife has a true small community feel, where we see the people in our lives all over the city and throughout our day to day lives. I love the events that all bring us together, the farmers market, pumpkin lane, Indigenous Peoples day, folk on the rocks, and more. I also love the access to outdoor spaces, from the frame lake trail, to back bay, and city hall park. This city is full of motivated talented and smart people who strive to make it better and I am proud to call it home."

"Yellowknife has such an open community that offers friendship easily. There is a vibrant active community full of people who want to push boundaries and try new things. If there is an interest, there is a club for it."

"The City should not lose focus on the spirit of Yellowknife and its wonderful rugged nature within the City. Once a green space is taken, that will never be able to be replaced within the City again."

"As a born and raised Yellowknifer, I feel genuinely grateful for the amenities we have - from sports facilities and the nature that surrounds us.. I would like to see it taken care of, and sometimes small changes can lead to big returns."

## Moving Around YK

"I most treasure the ability to access quiet, almost pristine wilderness IN the city - places like Frame Lake trail, Tin Can Hill - without having to get in a car and drive anywhere. They are amazingly soothing to my nervous system because the combination of quiet and wild nature transports me away from the stress of sensory overload in the city."

"What attracted me to Yellowknife and to stay in Yellowknife is the network of accessible, within city limit green spaces."

"I treasure Yellowknife's walkability and green spaces, as well as its location on the shore of, and access to, the Big Lake. I value the diversity in neighbourhoods and in our community."

"Yellowknife is inclusive, and easy to navigate. Has rich traditions and history and is set in a beautiful part of Canada. Having access to the lakes and camping areas around Yellowknife is amazing. I'd want to make sure we can protect the access to the amazing lakes and facilities we have in Yellowknife while also expanding housing so that more people can stay here to enjoy it."

"Public transit serves all areas of Yellowknife and is cheap and fast. Much less driving and more biking and walking. Biking and walking trails are separated (recognizing different needs and safety) and continuous from one end of the community to the other and are well maintained winter and summer. They provide access to work and play (green spaces)."

"As new neighbourhoods are built and old one revitalized, create "whole city" walking and biking routes that enable people to easily get from any point in the city to another that are safe, avoid traffic, and showcase the natural beauty. Creating a walking path around GSL which is currently prevented by private homeowners in Old Town; keeping the Frame Lake Trail in place, creating new trails and beautifying walkable areas by adding foliage and outdoor gathering spaces. Enforcing traffic controls eg so many people run red lights; photo radar and traffic cameras really should be implemented."



## Growing YK

“More visible Indigenous culture and placemaking (Whitehorse blows us out of the water on this). A city that has grown in population but remains compact and has densified yet pockets of nature remain within the core areas. New high density residential buildings, including affordable rentals, can be found downtown. It remains a walkable city and accessibility is now also a priority. A new university campus supports the tradition to a knowledge economy and away from boom and bust resource extraction and traditional government. Akaitcho land claim has been settled and YKDFN has begun to develop its land withdrawal parcels within the city, contributing to economic growth.” (*Speaking to vision for 2050*)

“I’d like to feel proud that non-vehicle traffic was prioritized - year-round bike traffic prioritized, strong transit system; access to green spaces and the Lake shore have been preserved and improved; various housing options are available for residents; and downtown is revitalized, safe and healthy.”

“I want us to be a city where many young people come to get educated, and to stay for work in any field. I want many people from around the world--especially refugees--to be able to find work here, and be accepted. I want many languages to be heard in the neighbourhood, and represented on our signs, and given legitimate opportunity to be practiced and schools and the workplace--without an expectation that people assimilate and forget their languages in the next generation. I want to see a city that has solved our housing crisis; where indeed basic housing, along with food, is provided on the basis of right.”

“I would like to see a complete and safe network of biking and walking trails around the City. I want to see our greenspaces, protected areas, and recreational areas protected from development. I want to see continued mix-density development and mixed zoning to reduce the requirement for driving and polluting our clear air.”

“Living in Yellowknife in the future means more affordable and diverse housing options—like energy-efficient townhomes and co-op housing—that meet the needs of families, singles, and seniors alike.”

“By 2050, Yellowknife has deepened its partnership with Indigenous communities to protect the land, water, and wildlife through co-managed conservation areas and restoration projects. Smart monitoring systems track water quality and ecosystem health in real time, guiding proactive responses to environmental changes. Climate adaptation infrastructure—like natural flood barriers and permafrost-resilient designs—minimizes impacts on the city and surrounding wilderness. This respectful, science-based approach ensures we safeguard our natural heritage while living sustainably in a changing climate.” (*Speaking to vision for 2050*)

“Create a healing centre, involve local service providers. Support the youth. The best chance at seeing a change is through them.”

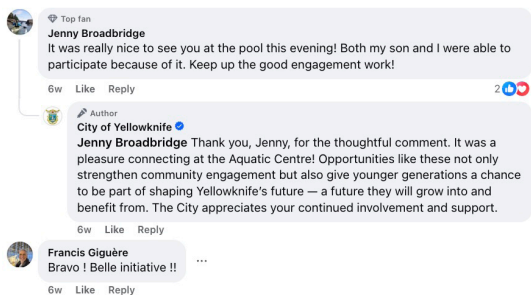
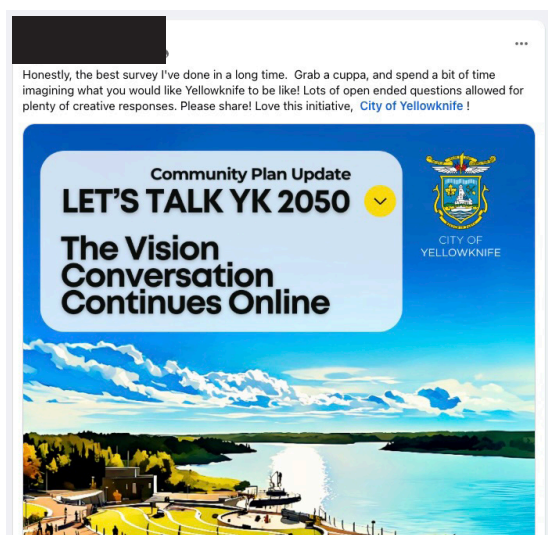
“Indigenous run municipal and governments. Working together with diverse non-Indigenous people to offer innovative solutions that attract newcomers and tourists and retain people to Yellowknife.”

“Yellowknife needs to be a community supportive of all ages, including seniors. Options for housing for seniors should be incorporated into new developments, rather than creating housing just for seniors. I think people need to be able to see themselves supported in all stages of their lives, in order to stay.”

# Appendix B: Community Conversations

The following pages showcase some of the publicly-available coverage of the Community Plan Update's Phase 1 Engagement efforts.

## From Facebook:



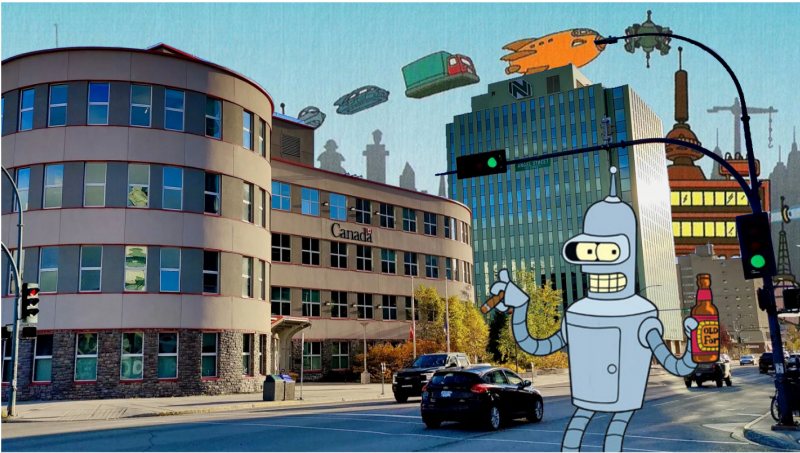


From local media:



# City asks residents to ‘imagine Yellowknife in 2050’

Ollie Williams · Monday June 16, 2025 at 3:59pm MT · Updated: June 16, 2025 at 4:14pm MT



The City of Yellowknife in the near future.

Share    

The City of Yellowknife has rebranded its consultation over an updated community plan as a chance to envisage the Yellowknife of 2050.

While some residents inclined to complain about the North’s economy and other issues might have to dial back their sarcasm, the city says it wants feedback on what you want Yellowknife “to look and feel like in 25 years.”

The community plan is receiving **what City Hall has called** a “comprehensive update” in the months ahead. The plan acts as a guide to how the city is expected to develop over the next quarter of a century, from where housing is built to how the environment and climate are factored in.

**Click here for full article.**



not convinced it is. I ask my family to drop me work.

Social for homeless -end homeless

What places, buildings, and natural would you see?

SEE

Conserve greenspaces - TCH, Willow Flats, Con Rd road

Street access library

I want to downsize and own my home

work for here mess is expanded only going east. car mall is very empty

A cultural centre - everyone welcome! central yk - handiwork sewing

Work with surrounding First Nations

implementation of 2014 + 2023 wildfire regulations

Functional harbour plan

more services we need more oppor for shopping Fun shops expense in community

MISS MR + MISS (non bim YELLOW

DOWN TOWN

PARKS + GREEN SPACES

THE BLASTING OF ALL THE BUTTEFULL THE BUTE FULL THAT IT IS DESTROYED THE CARLTON AND BUTTY OF THE COMMUNITY.

for First Nations

Do Better!

tail, identical

Attendee