

2018 Report to the Community

STUDENTS BY THE NUMBERS 2016-17

- 1,190** credit programs
- 52%** in degree and university transfer programming
- 4,417** in continuing education
- 61%** female
- 31%** Indigenous, of which 11% are Metis, Inuit or non Yukon First Nations
- 27** median age in credit programs
- 11%** international
- 27%** non-native speakers of English
- 1,484** took courses at one of YC's 12 community campuses
- 97%** agreed that "Yukon College is a good learning environment"

INNOVATION

Books and Beyond: Ayamdigut Campus transforms its library into an Innovation Commons

Yukon College has a new state-of-the-art space designed to foster learning and collaboration at the Whitehorse campus.

The Innovation Commons, created with a \$3.057-million investment from the governments of Canada and Yukon, gives students, instructors, and researchers specially tailored places for gathering and studying, and access to modern tools and technologies.

This collaborative, Indigenized design works in harmony with the Yukon landscape, and brings the feeling of the outside to the inside. It features large windows overlooking the mountains, natural wood tables, a living moss wall, and sun lamps to banish the winter blues.

Learners also benefit from the new immersive learning theatre, café-style and individual learning stations, and improved access to digital resources, such as tablets, that the renovation provided.

Research team helps Yukon Energy prepare for our water-powered future

A team of Yukon College researchers is forecasting the future of hydroelectricity in the territory by modeling the potential effects of climate change on Yukon's rivers.

The researchers, based at the Northern Climate Exchange (NCE) and L'Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS) in Québec are studying how temperature changes and factors like snow, rain, and permafrost may affect the Mayo and Aishihik rivers in the short, medium and long-term.

Currently, ninety-seven percent of the territory's energy comes from Yukon Energy Corporation's (YEC) hydroelectric plants.

"This research is critical in helping us plan for climate change and its implications on our ability to generate hydro power," YEC President Andrew Hall said. "The Aishihik and Mayo facilities are key assets, so we must be ready for any future changes in the watersheds that feed them."

The three-year project is a partnership between Yukon College, YEC, and INRS. It is funded by YEC and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.



Meteorological weather station on Llewellyn Glacier, BC.



Woodchip storage station in Teslin.

The community of Teslin sparks Yukon's "woodchip revolution"

The Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC)—with educational support from Yukon College—is blazing a trail toward energy independence by harnessing the power of biomass.

Biomass is an industry term for producing heat or energy, or both, by burning natural materials, such as plants or woodchips. Woodchips are more efficient than whole logs because the feed of combustible material can be controlled, creating a consistent stream of heat or energy.

In 2017, TTC purchased 10 boilers to heat 10 buildings in the community, and Yukon College's Teslin campus offered training in wood harvesting, and boiler installation and maintenance.

"This project is about creating a local economy," said TTC's Ishkitàn Executive Councillor Blair Hogan. "It's about how we can create more forestry-related opportunities for the guys and the gals who are interested in this kind of work."

Cold Climate Innovation (CCI) at Yukon College is a champion of biomass technology in the Yukon. CCI Director Stephen Mooney and a team of experts from Finland visited Teslin in October to share their expertise and learn from the community's experiences. Finland is a vanguard in this technology with 25 percent of its energy produced through biomass, whereas Canada is at about five percent.

"I have not found a better economic driver for a community than biomass," said Mooney. "Local people can harvest the wood and operate the machines, and eventually this technology can help lead a community towards energy independence—it could be a woodchip revolution."



CCI researchers visit Teslin's biomass facility.

Environmental monitoring training builds local skills, reducing outside reliance

Greg McLeod, a member of the Ross River Dena Council, is pursuing his Certification in Environmental Monitoring through Yukon College, so he can help the Ross River Dena Council make informed decisions about development projects that affect its traditional territory.

"I want to show people how to respect the land, so these projects make a smaller footprint on Kaska territory," said McLeod. "There can be great money involved in mining, but clean water is important too."

This Yukon-specific environmental monitoring training is new. It is delivered through the College's Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining to respond to the needs of industry, First Nations governments, and students.

Environmental monitors are needed at each stage of a mine's lifecycle, from baseline data collection to remediation and post-closure monitoring.

The courses are offered in week-long modules. The first two modules were delivered in the spring of 2016 and fall of 2017, where students travelled to the Alexco mine site in the Keno Hill Silver District. Offerings will continue through 2018.



President Karen Barnes addresses a crowded room in Ottawa.

UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Sharing the vision for YukonU throughout the territory and across the country

Yukon College is on track to become Yukon University by 2019, and it's been sharing its transformative vision for the institution with Yukoners and Canadians.

In 2017 and early 2018, the College kicked off its community tour by hosting dinners in Dawson, Teslin, Ross River, and Faro. At each stop they were met with packed rooms, thoughtful questions, and vibrant conversations about how Yukoners can benefit from the transition.

"Through research or education, Yukon College is present in every community across the territory," said Yukon College President Karen Barnes. "This will not change as we evolve into Yukon University, it will only be enhanced—the vision for YukonU is grounded in the vision Yukoners have shared with us."

Then in February, College representatives went to Yukon Days in Ottawa, to spread the word to federal government leaders and national organizations. Yukon College, in partnership with Yukon

Government and the Council of Yukon First Nations, hosted a productive Roundtable Luncheon. It also included special guests: President and CEO of the Mastercard Foundation Reeta Roy, Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation Ken Coates, GoldCorp Executives, and the Co-founder of the Arctic Inspiration Prize Arnold Witzig.

With the increased focus on higher learning, YukonU will remain true to its roots by serving a broad range of educational needs. It will continue to offer pathways for upgrading to post-secondary, high-quality trades and industry-focused programming, a range of Continuing Education classes, and much more. It will be a hybrid university, serving all levels of learners.

YukonU is being developed around the institution's three pillars of strength: climate change – society and environment; Indigenous self-determination and environment; and sustainable resource development and innovation.

For more information visit:
yukonuniversity.ca

Yukon College readies to launch its first made-in-Yukon degree

In 2018, Yukon College will offer the first in a series of made-in-Yukon undergraduate degree programs. It's another big step toward becoming a full-fledged university.

Representatives from the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) visited Ayamdigut campus in summer 2017, to assess the school's *readiness to grant degrees*. It's now given approval.

"The Government of Yukon is proud of Yukon College's strong showing in this organizational evaluation," says Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee, Yukon Government's Minister of Education. "As the College prepares to become a university, this recognition shows that it already has a strong foundation and high standards for education and research."

The College plans to launch its first degree in Indigenous Governance in September 2018. This follows *program review* by CAQC and approval by Yukon Government to offer the degree, as well as an internal celebration event!



Mastercard Foundation, Rideau Hall Foundation, Yukon College, Yukon First Nations, Yukon Government and Vancouver Island University celebrate the start of this collaborative project.

DONOR UPDATE

Mastercard and Rideau Hall Foundations support the next generation of Yukon Indigenous learners and leaders

Education is a key that can unlock future success, but some learners lose their way before even entering a classroom. A new innovative partnership, launched at the Carcross Learning Centre in fall 2017, is designed to increase enrollment and completion rates for the next generation of Indigenous learners.

This ground-breaking innovation, built in partnership with Yukon First Nations under the guidance of Elders, creates opportunities for Indigenous learners to be full partners in their education. It exists in collaboration with Vancouver Island University, and is funded through the Mastercard Foundation and managed by Rideau Hall Foundation.

Over the next five years \$4.6-million in new funding will assist current students and more than 300 new Indigenous students to access post-secondary education. All Indigenous learners at Yukon College will benefit from expanded support services on campus and within their communities. The overall aim is to build a strong collaborative network of community and institutional partners who support Indigenous youth.

"My instructors and counsellors at Yukon College helped me navigate post-secondary programs and courses to stay on track and reach my goals," said David Silas, Bachelor of Science student at Yukon College and Selkirk First Nation citizen. "I would not be where I am today without the kind of support this learning partnership will provide."

Why I donate: The EDI Down to Earth Biology Award

"Education is tremendously important and the College provides a unique opportunity for Yukoners to gain high-level post-secondary training at home. By providing this student award, we're supporting the community and our future colleagues in the natural resources field."

-Pat Tobler, Regional Director/Senior Biologist at Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI) in Yukon, and a Director of the Yukon College Foundation Board.

Environmental consulting company EDI believes in building capacity from the ground up. That is why it offers a \$1,000 award to a second-year student in Yukon College's Renewable Resources diploma or Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences degree programs. The company also believes in hiring local experts in their fields, and currently four full-time employees at its Yukon branch are former Yukon College students.

Yukon College has a strong network of donors throughout the community. Northern businesses, organizations, and individuals contribute to general fundraising, and student bursaries and awards. To find out more about our supporters and find information on how to donate please visit yukoncollege.yk.ca/awards.



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