



TechYukon Questionnaire – Yukon Party Responses

Procurement:

The Yukon Government has large purchasing power and as such can help the technology sector grow by acting as an anchor tenant providing stability while allowing Yukon-based companies to focus on external growth.

- With thousands of public servants responsible for purchasing, how would your Party ensure local businesses are prioritized through the recovery, and long-term?
- What is your stance on the First Nations Purchasing Policy (FNPP) and explain how you see it benefiting or being detrimental to the business community as a whole?
- What tools would you use to leverage the government's purchasing power to bring support to the local businesses such as: long-term contracts, value-based contracting, supporting innovative start-ups, adopting technology and intellectual property developed by Yukon's private sector and the use of trade agreement exceptions?

ANSWERS:

- 1. The Yukon Party believes that the private sector needs to drive the economic recovery of the territory, and that the technology sector is well positioned to help lead this. We recognize that government procurement can help support the growth of this sector and will ensure that all facets of Yukon Government are aware of this priority.***
- 2. The Yukon Party supports the specific objectives of the First Nation Procurement Policy and the general commitment to Chapter 22 of the Umbrella Final Agreement. We agree that we should be doing more to ensure that local businesses are supported and***

that more can be done to increase the participation of First Nations citizens and businesses in the economy. The current government chose to draft this policy and announce it without first consulting with those business that are most affected by it. Unsurprisingly, the result is that there are some flaws with the current policy and we do not believe it will meet the objectives it sets out to achieve. As such we will work with First Nations and the business community to make necessary adjustments to the policy.

3. A Yukon Party Government will:

- *Use government procurement to better support technology and telecommunication companies by earmarking a portion of government's information and technology budget for locally produced solutions.*
- *Use trade agreement exemptions to target support for technology companies.*
- *Explore ways to enter longer-term support and maintenance contracts with local businesses to ensure they have stability to grow.*

Additionally, we will develop changes to the Business Incentive Policy to strengthen the support for local procurement.

Finally, we will work with the technology industry to determine if further steps are needed.

Education:

- *If elected, how do you plan to adjust the current curriculum to reflect a changing world i.e., coding classes, networking classes, etc. to get ahead of the stem curve?*

ANSWER:

The Yukon Party recognizes the need to incorporate new technologies, platforms and modern initiatives into the current curriculum. Our world is changing quickly, and there has been a rapid increase to the need for students to embrace learning in the technology sector.

We recognize there have been changes to this effect in recent years to content and education delivery, but the Yukon Party is committed to developing a technology education plan that promotes computer literacy and coding. We are committed to preparing our students for a fast-changing, technology-based world, and workplace.

Further to this, a Yukon Party government will expand the Aurora Virtual School to allow Yukon students to access alternative learning options, and will establish a Traces

Centre of Excellence Program for high school students looking to pursue a career in the trades.

Telecommunications:

Many governments are trying to bring solutions to the digital divide by making the internet ubiquitous, affordable and accessible. Yukon still only has one internet connection to the south but the Dempster Highway project is progressing.

- How will your government support the ongoing investment in telecommunications infrastructure, including access to internet and cellular coverage?
- What will your party do to ensure that internet redundancy is implemented?

ANSWERS:

1. ***Over the last term four and a half years, the Yukon Party Official Opposition, and in particular MLA Brad Cathers, have advocated heavily throughout the previous term for the government to increase cellular coverage to those small communities and neighbourhoods with little or no cellular access. Mr. Cathers brought forward the following motion in the Legislature:***

“THAT this House urges the Yukon government to commit to developing communications infrastructure in rural Yukon, including partnering with the private sector to expand cellular phone coverage to people without service in areas including Grizzly Valley, Deep Creek, Fox Lake, Ibx Valley, Junction 37, Champagne, Mendenhall, and the north Alaska Highway. “

A Yukon Party government is fully committed to supporting ongoing investment in telecommunications infrastructure, and exploring opportunities to ensure internet access and cellular coverage for all.

2. ***The Yukon Party is committed to moving forward with the Dempster Fibre project. We will also investigate the possibility of better accessing the Alaska Highway Fibre line, with Alaskan carriers.***

Investing / Angel Networks:

Yukon has a growing set of start-ups that require capital to grow. Many jurisdictions such as British Columbia, Alberta and North Ontario have more advanced ecosystems with targeted incentive programs for investment in order to capitalize on the growing

importance of high-growth startups. The National Angel Capital Organization (NACO) has just released a report for Yukon that outlines the key steps in developing the investment component Yukon's venture ecosystem including the formation of an angel investment group as well as investment incentives.

- Would your party support dollar matching *or similar incentives* for an angel investors network to support the gap between "friends and family" and venture capitalist?
- Would your party partner with a local angel investor group in its mission to develop and invest in Yukon's startup entrepreneurs?

ANSWER:

The Yukon Party is committed to leading the territory out of the pandemic by supporting small business. We acknowledge the knowledge and innovation sectors are well positioned to help lead the way through this economic recovery.

We are committed to supporting an industry of innovative thinkers and entrepreneurs. A Yukon Party government will create a venture capital program based on the successful BC model, which offers tax credits to investors to encourage them to make capital investments in Yukon-based small businesses.

Analytics / Data Literacy:

- ● The application of modern business intelligence and analytics tools (e.g., Tableau, Qlik, PowerBI) to Yukon Government operations holds great potential to improve the quality and effectiveness of public services delivered to Yukon people. What is your plan to raise the level of data literacy within the Yukon public service and implement modern business intelligence and analytics tools across government?
- ● What is the level of commitment of your party to use modern business intelligence and analytics tools (e.g., Tableau, Qlik, PowerBI) to share knowledge across departments and create a more unified and real-time approach to Yukon Government service delivery?

ANSWER:

A Yukon Party government will commit to working with the knowledge, technology and innovation sectors to find ways for government to support local entrepreneurs, exploring the possibility of incorporating modern business intelligence and analytics tools into government departments, and finding ways to improve public service delivery.

Electronic Government:

- Modern governments are implementing electronic service delivery online with digital identity to improve service and lower costs. What is your commitment to implementing online services including digital identity?

ANSWER:

The Yukon Party recognizes the need to implement new and innovative models to modernize online services to reflect a changing, technology-based world, but also maintaining methods of delivery that enable those with lower computer access and skills to access government services. We will work to provide a balance while continuing modernization work and implementation of online services.

We also believe that these solutions should be locally procured and designed to the greatest extent possible – this will have economic benefits for our community while also improving access to onsite servicing. If the government is looking at procuring new digital and IT solutions then our preference is that those are provided by locals.

Recruitment / Employee Retention:

- Many local IT based businesses have had challenges recruiting and retaining employees. Local talent in the north is limited and many businesses have had to recruit outside the territory. How will your party help resolve these challenges and what steps will you take to ensure there are proper training and educational opportunities to grow the local talent pool?

ANSWER:

A Yukon Party government will commit to working with the IT sector to identify challenges they are facing with recruiting and retaining employees, and work on a path forward to identify ways to address these challenges in the short and long term.

While we are looking to expand on educational opportunities for K-12 learning, there is also potential to explore more post-secondary training opportunities with Yukon University, and training opportunities within the community. We look forward to working further with industry to see how the Yukon Party can address these challenges moving forward.