



Dear sir or madam,

As a service to our membership, we are requesting the parties taking part in this election to respond to the questions below, regarding their approach to the technology sector in Yukon. Our intention is to convey these responses to our members and to the public prior to Election Day. To this end, I would be very helpful if you could email your responses to exec@techyukon.ca on or before Friday, October 28. This will give us time to publish your response on our website (www.techyukon.ca), and to issue a release to the media. We very much appreciate your support in this effort, and your commitment to helping us grow and diversify the Yukon economy.

TechYukon Election Questions 2016

TechYukon represents 32 companies. It is a growing organization in a growing industry sector, with a GDP contribution close to that of tourism. We believe it has the ability to play an even more important role in the Yukon economy than it does today.

1. Technology driven enterprises are being accelerated in tech hubs/accelerators in every province in Canada. No such accelerator or incubator program exists in Yukon, except in piecemeal fashion.

- Will your party support a business accelerator program for technology companies?
- Will your party continue providing financial support for TechYukon, the Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate, and the technology innovation fund of the Cold Climate Innovation Centre?

2. Access to venture capital and incentives to produce knowledge based products and services is a major stumbling block for local technology companies. The BC government for example provides a 30% tax incentive for investment in new companies or products, and has implemented a \$100M capital investment fund. Other jurisdictions directly incentivize the production of strategic exportable products and services.

- What will your party do to make Yukon competitive with those jurisdictions, and to renovate its aging incentive programs, such as the Business Incentive Program?

3. The Government of Yukon has a large influence on the private sector economy, and is an important player the creation of strong companies. These companies not only provide Yukon jobs and import substitution, but also exportable products.

- How will your party use tools such as supply chain management, budgeting process, incentives and local-friendly procurement policies to enhance the capacity of the local technology sector?
- The capital IT spending envelop was recently increased to \$9.5M, in part due to TechYukon's lobbying, after years of stagnation. What will your party do to continue this investment, and to ensure that maximum benefit falls to Yukon companies and local job creation?

4. To continue to grow, the technology industry needs access to new talent and affordable training to recruit and retain staff. The Yukon government plays an important role in making those things possible.

- The Yukon Jobs program is a valuable resource for helping companies train their employees, but demand for this help frequently exceeds the supply available. What will your party do to increase access to training support for technology companies?
- The future of the technology sector depends heavily on the availability of talent to be recruited and trained. Unlike many jurisdictions, Yukon does not include education in computer programming in its curriculum. What will your party do to address this issue?
- Will your party support a summer job training and mentoring program for Yukon students enrolled in technology-related studies?

5. Affordable, reliable and redundant internet is vital to the success of technology driven enterprises. Most other jurisdictions ensure that this connectivity is available to their technology sector.

- What steps will your party take to improve internet infrastructure in Yukon, and to ensure that local companies are involved in the work of implementing those improvements?
- What will your party do to ensure technology companies have affordable, reliable access to the high speed internet service they need to create and support their products?