

YELLOWKNIVES
DENE FIRST NATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24 / 2024-25

TABLE OF

Contents

First Nation Mission 4

Dene Laws 5

Chiefs' Message 7

Department Reports

- YKDFN Wellness 9
- YKDFN Wellness 12
- Lands Management 16
- Dechıta Nàowo Post-Secondary Education 19
- Dechıta Nàowo Post-Secondary Education 22
- Housing 25
- Public Works and Infrastructure 25
- Chief and Councillors 6
- Early Learning and Childcare Department 28
- Economic Development 36

2023–2024 FINANCIAL REPORT 38

2024–2025 FINANCIAL REPORT 40

Acknowledgement 42

TRIBUTE

IN LOVING MEMORY

"It was an honour and privilege to serve the Yellowknives Dene First Nation for 16 years. I would like to thank my family and friends and those who have supported me throughout the years."

- late Chief Edward Sangris

We honour Chief Edward Sangris, who served as Chief of Dettah for sixteen years with dedication to his people and deep respect for Dene language, culture and traditions.

He understood that leadership carries a responsibility to future generations and brought that commitment to his work and relationships.

His passing in October 2023 was a profound loss for our Nation. We will remember his service with gratitude and hold his family and community in our hearts.

First Nation Mission

To assert our Wiiliideh Dene Rights, as long as the sun rises, the rivers flow, and the grass grows

FIRST NATION VISION

Our vision is to be a Healthy and Sovereign Weledeh Dene Nation with Excellent Governance

VALUE STATEMENTS

- We the YKDFN Chiefs and Council are guided by the following values:
- Wiiliideh Culture – we practice and promote our traditions, culture, language and spirituality
- Integrity – we are caring, respectful and honorable to all people
- Well-being – we live a healthy, balanced life that relies on nature
- Accountability – we are accountable and transparent to our people

FIRST NATION SUMMARY

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) is part of the Akaitcho Territory Government. It is one of five main Dene groups that live in the NWT and is governed by a Chief and Council which has offices in Dettah and Ndilo. Overall, the YKDFN Chiefs and Council affirm our sacred obligation to serve our people and our commitment to live balanced contemporary lifestyles with culture and traditions important to our community, to speak our traditional language, and protect our natural resources and treaty rights. For Chiefs and Council to lead the YKDFN to a prosperous future requires the support of our members. We will work cooperatively

and in partnership with all members, YKDFN administration and legal entities to achieve our proposed outcomes to improve the well-being of all our members.

Dene Laws

SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE

Share all the big games you kill; only take what you need and share with others who do not have any.

HELP EACH OTHER

Help the poor, sick and Elders, who are in need, visit them; give them food, cook, for them. Help them get firewood or whatever needs to be done around the house. When you lose someone in death, go to the family right away, help out the widow as much as possible and help take care of the orphaned children.

LOVE EACH OTHER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

Treat each other as brother and sisters as though you are related. Help each other and don't harm anyone.

BE RESPECTFUL OF ELDERS AND EVERYTHING AROUND YOU

Don't run around when Elders are eating; sit down until they are finished.

SLEEP AT NIGHT AND WORK DURING THE DAY

Don't run around or laugh loudly when it gets dark. Everyone should sleep when darkness falls.

BE POLITE AND DON'T ARGUE WITH ANYONE

Don't harm anyone with your voice or actions. Don't hurt anyone with your power. Don't show your anger.

YOUNG GIRLS AND BOYS SHOULD BEHAVE RESPECTFULLY

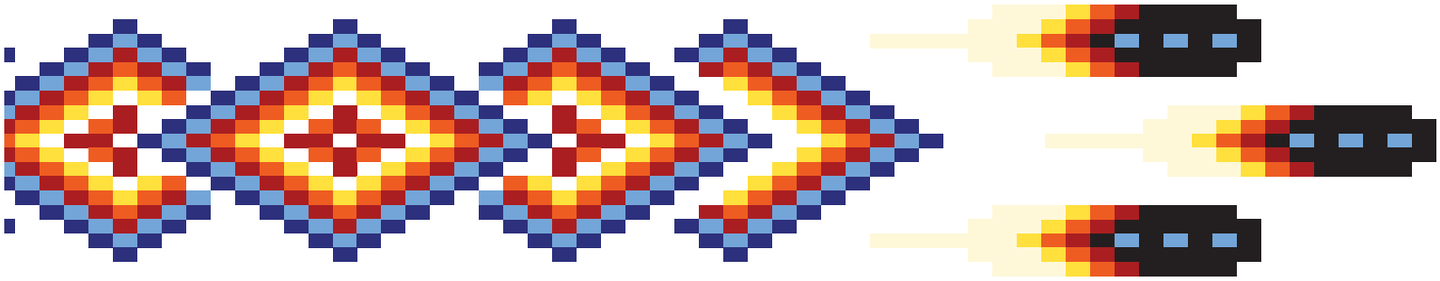
Don't make fun of each other, especially in the matter of sex. Don't make fun of older men and women. BE polite to each other.

PASS ON THE TEACHINGS

Elders are to tell stories about the past every day. In this way, young people learn to dis- tinguish between good and unacceptable behaviours and when they are older, they will become the storytellers someday, who will then someday keep the circle of life going.

BE HAPPY AT ALL TIMES

The Creator have given you a great gift—Mother earth, take care of her and she will always give you food and shelter.



2023-2024
Chief and Councillors

YKDFN CHIEFS



Ernest Betsina



Fred Sangris

YKDFN COUNCILLORS



Rosanna Sangris



Anastassia Judas



Philip Joe Goulet



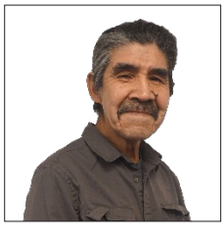
Cecilie Beaulieu



Liza Pieper



Leroy Betsina



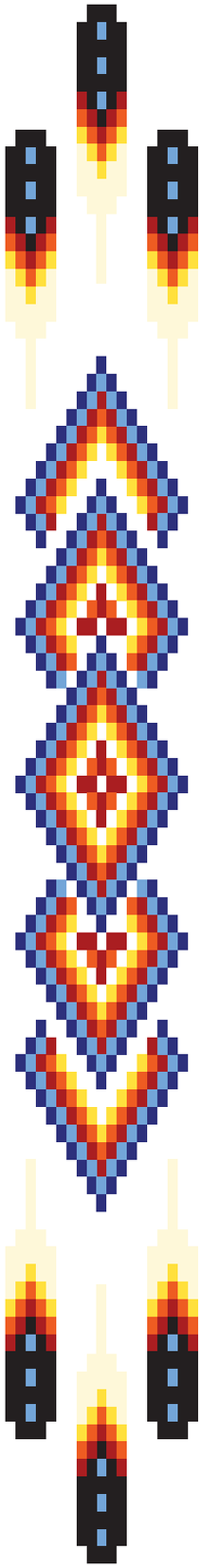
Lawrence Goulet



Mary Rose Sundberg



Jeffrey Rosnawski



Chiefs' Message

TO OUR MEMBERS,

Looking back on 2023-24 and 2024-25, we are proud of the strength our people showed through difficult times. Our responsibility as Chiefs is to carry that strength forward, guided by our members and the knowledge of our Elders. We also remember Chief Edward Sangris, who passed away in October 2023, with deep gratitude for his years of leadership and his dedication to our people, language and culture.

The 2023 wildfires and evacuation brought uncertainty and separation from the homes and land we love. Our Economic Development team helped coordinate information, evacuation support and the return home, alongside the care provided by Wellness and the protection and essential services maintained by Public Works. Across our Nation, people stepped forward to help one another. We carry that experience with us as we work toward stronger emergency preparedness and support for our communities.

Our wellbeing is closely connected to our culture. On-the-land healing, youth culture camps, Dene games and language learning created opportunities to share knowledge and strengthen belonging. Meals on Wheels and caregiver support reflected our responsibility to care for Elders, whose teachings continue to guide us.

We also celebrate our members' determination to learn. Students progressed through Dechı̨ ta Nàowo's diploma partnership with Trent University, bringing Dene knowledge and Western science together. Four members earned heavy equipment operator certificates through Portage College. These achievements give us confidence in the skills and leadership growing within our Nation.

Safe homes and dependable community services remain essential to our vision. Housing upkeep, taking responsibility for our own sewage services, and Dettah's new floating dock are practical investments in places where our families can live well and our children can grow.

As the diamond industry changes, we must prepare for new opportunities while protecting our territory. Our involvement in Giant Mine remediation and our relationships with neighbouring Nations and the City of Yellowknife must help secure a future shaped by our people's priorities.

We thank our members, Elders, Council, staff and volunteers. Together, we will keep working toward a future where our children know their language and history, our families feel supported, and our people can pursue their aspirations with confidence.

Mahsi!

DEPARTMENT REPORT: 2023-24

YKDFN Wellness

The YKDFN Wellness Department provides efficient, holistic Wellness programs and services to empower members to make healthy positive choices and opportunities as long as the sun rises, river flows and grass grows.

2023-24 YKDFN WELLNESS STAFF:

Jennifer Drygeese, *Director*

Jocelyn Auger, *Administrative Assistant (Ndilo)*

Karen Martin, *Family Wellness Programmer*

Jennifer Charlo, *Family Wellness Programmer (Elder)*

Stella Martin, *Community Caregiver*

Cyndi Caisse, *Dene Wellness Programmer*

Violet Sangris, *Counsellor*

Rachel Tambour, *Justice Coordinator*

Rainer Erasmus, *Counsellor*

Kylie Tsetta, *Patient Care Coordinator*

Theresa Lynn, *Recreation Coordinator*

Wellness had a very successful fiscal year with a wide range of program, services and supports. I would like to thank all our Wellness staff and contributors for all their hard work and support during this challenging time. Mahsi Cho

WELLNESS ADMINISTRATION:

Our Wellness Administration is responsible for the overall oversight of our Wellness Department.

2023-24 Accomplishments:

- Communication
- Community Support/Advocacy
- Employment
- Networking/Collaborations
- Training
- Visioning Gathering
- Volunteer Appreciation

Wildfire Support - Our Wellness team was able to transition very quickly and efficiently from delivering programs/services to providing support to our members during the Wildfire Evacuation with offering well needed supports/services. Wellness was involved with the evacuation, communication to members during evacuation, seeked, applied organized and distributed financial support with Jordan Principle and United Way and also led depositing financial support to our YKDFN members isolating outside of Edmonton which was the key concern with our Wellness calls. Our members were in dire need of financial assistance. Also provided Wellbeing Support which were Counselling through phone calls and texts for entire duration of evacuation. Provided Elder Support - Arranged and covered cost for Interpreters for Elders and held Elder Program- sewing, games and bingo at River Cree. Offered medical/ medicine pick up/ laundry support for Elders. Data - gathered and organized data on YKDFN members for supports. Tracked all YKDFN embers who evacuated for supports. Located contact number and locations to check on our members during the evacuation.

- Organized Wellness Calls:
  - Calgary list (44 homes)
  - Family list (129 homes)
  - Elder list (82 Elders)
  - General List (167 Homes)
  - (Reached out to 422 YKDFN homes in total)

DENE WELLNESS PROGRAM

Dene Wellness provides services to assist community members in addressing addictions and health the symptoms of unresolved trauma in a holistic manner.

2023-24 Accomplishments:

- Counselling
- Treatment Referrals
- Family Healing Sessions
- Men's Group
- Beading Class
- Prevention Nights
- National Truth and Reconciliation Day
- On the Land Healing Camp (March 2024)

JUSTICE PROGRAM

Provided services to members who are involved with courts/law and to promote crime prevention.

2023-24 Accomplishments:

- Court Support
- Diversions (Youth and Adults)
- Legal Aid Clinic
- Community Mischief
- Youth Gathering (March 2024)
- Wills and Estate Planning
- Honouring our MMIWG Walk Event
- Students against drunk driving Rally

ELDER WELLNESS PROGRAM

Elder Wellness provides knowledge and awareness in health, education and community living,

2023-24 Accomplishments:

- Weekly Elder Program
- Walk at Field House
- Elder Support
- Elders On the Land – Picnics, Culture Camps, Healing Camps
- Elders at National Elder Gathering in Edmonton
- Elder Christmas Party
- Elders at Weaving our Wisdom Conference in Yellowknife
- Community Caregiver Services

FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM

Family Wellness provides knowledge and awareness in health, education and community living,

2023-24 Accomplishments:

- Mama Bebia Program
- Baby Belt Making Class
- Celebration of Beautiful 2023 Babies
- Family Support (Parties, My World, Swimming Pool rentals, family nights, Christmas Craft sale)
- Workout Challenge

HEALTH SUPPORT

2023-24 Accomplishments:

- COVID Care Package
- Covid/Flue Vaccinations Clinics
- Shingle Vaccination
- Air Purifier Support
- Diabetes Workshop (December 2023)
- Meeting with HSS COO
- Patient Care Support
- Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Cancer Screening Workshop (November 2023)

RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS

Recreation engages families, Elders, Individuals, youth and children in fun, active, healthy traditional and cultural activities that develop positive lifelong habits and attitudes.

2023-24 Accomplishments:

- Afterschool Program (Dettah/Ndilo)
- Gym Programs
- Children Baseball League
- YKDFN Spring Carnival (April 2023)
- Wiilideh Cultural Gathering (June 2023)
- National Indigenous Day (June 2023)
- Summer Day Camp
- Mackenzie Youth Summer Games
- Halloween Parties
- AWG Dene Games Territorials in Dettah (December 2023)
- Christmas Program (Parade, Community Christmas Party, Christmas Activities, New Years Eve Celebration)
- Traditional Games Championships (Feb 2024)
- Spring Break Program

DEPARTMENT REPORT: 2024-25

YKDFN Wellness

The YKDFN Wellness Department provides efficient, holistic Wellness programs and services to empower members to make healthy positive choices and opportunities as long as the sun rises, river flows and grass grows.

2024-25 YKDFN WELLNESS STAFF:

Jennifer Drygeese, *Director*

Shannon Betsina, *Administrative Assistant (Ndilo)*

Karen Martin, *Family Wellness Programmer*

Jennifer Charlo, *Family Wellness Programmer (Elder)*

Stella Martin, *Community Caregiver*

Cyndi Caisse, *Dene Wellness Programmer*

Shania Desjarlir, *Dene Wellness Administrator*

Violet Sangris, *Counsellor*

Vanessa Sangris, *Justice Coordinator/Counsellor*

M**ellissa Sangris**, *Health Coordinator (A/Director)*

Theresa Lynn, *Recreation Coordinator*

Ndilo and Dettah casual Recreation staff

Theresa Lynn, *Child and Youth Manager*

Aleisha Betsina, *Academic Coordinator*

Wellness had a very successful fiscal year with a wide range of program, services and supports. I would like to thank all our Wellness staff and contributors for all their hard work and support during this challenging time. Mahsi Cho

WELLNESS ADMINISTRATION:

Our Wellness Administration is responsible for the overall oversight of our Wellness Department.

2024-25 Accomplishments:

- Communication (facebook page, monthly newsletters, calls)
- Community Support/Advocacy
- Regional Wellness Council (Health)
  - FNHMA Working Group
  - Health and Social Services Working Group - NWT COL
  - Gone Goko Society
- Employment (Majority YKDFN member/Community Members employed)
- Networking/Collaborations
- Training
- Volunteer Appreciation
- Community Outreach
- Wellness Calls
- Training
- Wellness Week (Aug 14-22, 2024) - Directive from C/C
- Staff Meetings
  - Staff Retreat (Sept 23-24, 24)
- Wellness caribou harvesting hunt
- Wellness Strategic Planning:
  - Feb 21-22, 2024 in Dettah (Mandy McDonald)
  - Visioning Gathering - April 22-23, 2024 (Mandy McDonald)
  - Hoti Ets'enda Survey (160 surveys)

CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM

- Youth Culture Camp (July 27-Aug1/24) – Willideh Site
- Summer Days Camps
- Deline Spiritual Gathering (Aug14-19, 2024)
- Chekoa Programs
- Afterschool Program
- Youth Sewing evenings
- Handgames practice
- Parent-Teacher Interview Support
- Relationship with schools (KTW and KDS/YK1/YCS)
- High School Transportation
- Hosted a Youth Gathering (March 17-19, 2025) with Tate Juniper

DENE WELLNESS PROGRAM

Dene Wellness provides services to assist community members in addressing addictions and health the symptoms of unresolved trauma in a holistic manner.

2024-25 Accomplishments:

- Counselling
- Treatment Referrals
- Family Healing Sessions (1)
- Support Groups:
  - Ribbon Skirt Making Classes (June 2024)
  - Men's Healing Circle (Feb-Mar 2024)
  - Sewing Class (all year)
- NAAW Week (Nov 2024)
- On the Land Healing Camps
- April 10-30/24 w/Patrick Buffalo
  - Feb 3-7/25 w/ William Greenland
  - March 24-28/25 with Violet Sangris

JUSTICE PROGRAM

Provided services to members who are involved with courts/law and to promote crime prevention.

2024-25 Accomplishments:

- Sending members to treatment
- Court Support
- Diversions (Youth and Adults)
- Court Docket Review
- Legal Aid Clinic
- Fire Arms Safety Course
  - Youth (Oct 2024)
  - Women (Nov 2024)

ELDER WELLNESS PROGRAM

Elder Wellness provides knowledge and awareness in health, education and community living,

2024-25 Accomplishments:

- Weekly Elder Program
- Walk at Field House
- Meals on Wheels for Elders
- Elder Support
- Elder Birthday Gifts
- Elders On the Land
  - May 2024 at Dechita Research Hide Camp
  - Nov 12-15/25 0- Rites of Passage
  - March 2025 at Dechinta Research Fish Camp
- Working relationship with Deton Cho
- Canada Goose Jackets
  - Funding Support
  - Monthly visits with Deton Cho Companies
- Elder Christmas Party
- Community Caregiver Service

FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM

Family Wellness provides knowledge and awareness in health, education and community living,

2024-25 Accomplishments:

- Mama Bebia Program
- Learning through Language Workshop (Feb25-27/25) with Dechinta Naawo
- Celebration of Beautiful 2024 Babies (Jan25/24)
- Family Cooking Class
- Workout Challenges
- Community/ Family Supports
- March 2024 Community Easter Parties – Ndilo/ Dettah
- May27&29/24 Family Night – Dettah/Ndilo
- May 12/23 Mother's Day BBQ - Wiilideh Site
- May 4, 2024 Indoor Garage Sale – Ndilo
- June 14, 2024 Father's Day BBQ – Wiilideh Site
- August 17/24 Garage Sale – Ndilo
- Oct 19/24 Halloween craft and bake sale – Ndilo
- Nov 23&Dec14/24 Christmas craft and bake sale – Ndilo
- Jan 22/25 Family night theme: caribou – Ndilo/ Dettah

HEALTH SUPPORT

Our Health Support lead our health efforts for the YKDFN. They offer programming, head the HEMP Research study and provide support to members who are in need of health support.

2024-25 Accomplishments:

- Covid/Flu Vaccinations Clinics
- Shingle Vaccination
- Air Purifier Support
- Healthy Cooking Sessions (Monthly)
- Patient Care Support
- Drug Awareness – Oct 2024
- Diabetes awareness – Nov 2024
- Traditional Medicine Distribution (orii, Spruce Gum)
- HEMP Research project coordination (Update – completed 223 interviews- 92 members are waiting for participation)
- Healthy Fitness
- Noon Hour Workouts – October 2024
- Dene Aerobics – March 2025
- Workout Challenge – March 15-June 10, 2024 – 41 participants. Total loss of 115 lbs.
- Workout Challenge – August 21-October 2024
- Exercise Walk – Mondays 12-1p – Ndilo Friday – 12-1p – Dettah (May 2024)
- Walk to Tuk – 2 teams (20 people) – Jan-Feb 2025
- Cancer Support
- YKDFN/GNWT session- Jan 28-29/25
- Goba Care session – March17-18/25
- Girls Menstrual Support
- Offered supplies
- Rites of passage sessions)

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

Jordan Principle Coordinater offers supports to families that require Jordan Principle financial/resources to support their child(ren) where there is no other supports available.

- 90 individual application requests, and 5 group requests submitted with a total of 95 requests submitted to ISC since 2023;
- 57 requests sent in from Jan - December 2024;
- 12 requests sent in between Jan - May 2025 of this year;
- Since 2023 there have been 53 approvals;
- 36 submitted application requests are still pending for review;
- 12 full requested application requests have been escalated for national review;
- 14 partial application requests have been escalated for national review;
- 10 sitting in queue to be processed;
- 2 voided – children no longer in their care;
- 4 denials; (3 partial denial; One denial overturned)

Group Applications:

Food – May, July, August 2024 – administered

Submitting food group request for 2024/25 winter clothing – denied;

Working on submitting food group request for July and August 2025;

Weekend Family Outings

My World Rental April 20, 2024, May 4, 11, 18, 25, June 1 Nov 2, 23, 30,

Dec 7, Jan 18, Feb 1, 15, 22, March 15, 22, 29

Gymnastics Nov 9, Feb 8, March 1, 8

RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS

Recreation engages families, Elders, Individuals, youth and children in fun, active, healthy traditional and cultural activities that develop positive lifelong habits and attitudes.

2024-25 Accomplishments:

- Gym Programs
- New Workout Area (Ndilo and Dettah)
- Sport Funding support
- YKDFN Spring Carnival
- National Indigenous Day
- 2024 Indigenous Summer Games
- Summer Day Camp
- Skating (Sept 2024-Mar 2025)
- Halloween Parties
- Dene Game Clinics
- Christmas Events/Parties
- Boxing Day Handgame Tournament
- New Years Eve Celebration
- Traditional Game Championship
- Spring Break Program

DEPARTMENT REPORT: 2023-24 / 2024-25

Lands Management

Lands Management is responsible for the administration of land use, excluding regulatory matters, for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN).

Lands Management is the lead on processing YKDFN Member requests for Permission to Occupy Lands, responding to Government Northwest Territories applications for Commissioners lands leases from non-members, formulating and implementing land use plans. The Department is active in a support role providing land administration support to: Treaty, Rights and Governance; Public Works & Infrastructure; Environment and Economic Development on a day-to-day basis.

Community Planning

The Department is responsible for developing and implementing sound land management practices. For the Department, Lands Management this is achieved through the formulation of land plans and by identifying goals to guide land use and development.

Land Plans are intended to be living documents and are typically reviewed every 5 - 10 years. During the Fall and Winter of 2022 and 2023 several workshops and meetings were held to begin the work required to update the existing Ndilo and Dettah land use plans. The Department, Lands Management has been challenged to access funding to continue with the plan updates since April 2023.

Community Expansion

There are very few places within Ndilo and Dettah that can accommodate new housing. Two development areas were identified adjacent Dettah. The Dettah land development areas have been undergone redesign lower construction costs associated with blasting, road and lot development. The westerly subdivision was significantly altered and will require approval by Council.

Relocation of the "Administrative boundary" of Dettah to enlarge the community to include more Indian Affairs Branch (IAB) Land requires negotiation with both Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The boundary change requires a GNWT Order in Council. This process will take one to two years to complete, once it begins. However, the relocation of the administrative boundary is a key component of the Community Planning update which is unfunded. This project is on hold as the funding required to advance discussions with Chiefs and Council, community and Government is a requirement of the Community Plan update.

Treaty Rights Based Cabins

Do you use a cabin to practice Treaty and Aboriginal Rights? Have the GNWT Land Inspectors posted a Notice at your cabin advising you to complete and submit a document called: Voluntary Declaration Form?

The Akaitcho Treaty 8 Negotiation Team has written the GWNT Minister, Environment and Climate Change advising that the process being undertaken conflicts with Supreme Court decisions related to Treaty and Rights based Cabins. The Minister was advised that YKDFN members will not submit the declarations. If you have received a Notice at a cabin you use to practice traditional land use, please contact the Department, Lands Management directly. The Akaitcho Treaty 8 negotiations team is leading this initiative.

Permission to Occupy Lands Procedural Update

The Department manages the Permission to Occupy Lands (PTO) Program. Chiefs and Council have updated the procedure and

renamed it the Land Administration Governance Model (the PTO Policy). Chiefs and Council approved the Land Administration Governance Model June 8, 2023. Implementation of the policy is proceeding. There have been delays with establishing a Lands Committee able to advise Chiefs and Council on matters relevant to PTO. The Department, Lands Management is working to update its in-house database to better support members looking for areas to reside year-round, or practice other Treaty or Aboriginal Right.

GNWT Commissioners Land Leases

Since May 2021, the Department has been able to delay the issuance of all new requests for GNWT Commissioner Land Lease within the Chief Drygeese Territory. These leases are for recreational cabins. To date the processing of 41 requests for cabins from non-members have been suspended.





DEPARTMENT REPORT: 2023-24

Dechı̨ta Nàowo Post-Secondary Education



1. ADULT SKILLS TRAINING TO EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Job Readiness and Employability Skills

- Employability skills training; Career researching and exploring
- Updating resumes and cover letters, job searching, and interview preparing
- School life/home balance

Construction Basics

- On-the-job safety training, especially when using power tools
- Installed roofing, windows, and doors
- Completed renovations and building classrooms and offices
- Built shelving units, community garden plots and sheds



Pre-Trades

- Studying towards and taking pre-trades exam
- Math, Science and English

Environmental Monitoring

- Eco Canada project management and drone pilot training
- BEAHR core environmental monitoring
- BEAHR Environmental Site Assessment
- BEAHR Environmental Research Skills
- BEAHR Environmental Regulatory Skills



Industrial Safety/Driver's License Training

- Fall Protection, Confined Space, Asbestos & H2S Hazard Awareness
- Spill Response Level I and Level II
- Predator Defense and Shotgun Handling
- Canadian Firearms Certificate
- Wilderness First Aid
- Driver's License Training - Classes 3, 4, 5 & 7

Heavy Equipment Operator

- Hands-on experience with three types of equipment
- Excavator, loader and dozer
- Safe operating procedures, general handling, operation and maintenance of the machinery

Small Engine Mechanics

- Focus on snowmobile maintenance
- Spark plugs, oil changes, belts, safety orientation



Training On-the-Job

- Students were placed with Det'on Cho Land Tran, and the following YKDFN departments: Lands, IT, Environment, and the Housing Strategy

2. POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Indigenous Environmental Studies & Sciences Diploma

- Partnered with Trent University to deliver the diploma program bringing together Western Science and Dene Traditional Environmental Knowledge
- Delivered first semester for the two-year diploma

Traditional Indigenous Arts Courses

- Fish Scale Art course
- Traditional Footwear course

Indigenous Media

- Augmented and Virtual Reality and 3D Animation
- Introduction to sound design
- Radio interviewing skills
- Creating effective advertisements



Post-Secondary Preparation

- Post-secondary scholarship workshops
- Tutoring
- SC-Cyber E-Learning High School site & awarding some high school credits
- YKDFN grad celebration
- Annual education excursion to visit universities and colleges, including fundraising
- Post-secondary application support and preparing for academic placement tests

Community Involvement and Support

- Greenhouse and community garden growing in Dettah and Ndilo
- Elders Workshops on advising Dechı̨ta Nàowo
- Assist with community emergencies such as:
- Wildfire Evacuation:
- Fireproofing in Ndilo and Dettah
- Contacting members to provide them with evacuation information and rides to the evacuation centre
- Arranging for Elder accommodations at Enoch Reserve
- Contacting GNWT personnel to try to locate Elders who were evacuated to Calgary and surrounding area. However, due to privacy concerns they could not assist. Our team had to track people down by family and friend referrals and calling hotels directly to talk to different Elders or arrange for others to visit an Elder
- Meeting with helping organizations such as the Red Cross, Government of Alberta Health Services and others for assistance for members
- Picking up Elders from Calgary by bus by going to eight different hotels across the city and airport area, to bring them to a common location in Edmonton
- Assisting Finance Department with Member Payouts
- Assisting Wellness Department with contacting members for
- wellness checks
- Providing one-on-one support to vulnerable Elders and members
- Delivering programs and daily outings for Elders such as sewing activities and board games with refreshments, shopping, laundry, church, banking, etc.
- Taking Elders to medical appointments and obtaining prescriptions
- Coordinating and providing member transportation in partnership with Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning. Transportation was
- provided to the Expo Centre for registration with the Red Cross, and for food and other supports, as well as to other areas and events Arranging flight home for Elders after several conversations with the
- GNWT. Each Elder and accompanying family member had to be registered individually by our staff and so a lot of time was spent talking to each Elder to get their information. We included their caregivers and family members on the flight with them.
- Arranging transportation to the airport for the Elders, and arranging for packed lunches on the flight, and hot food on returning to Yellowknife Assisting with driving Elders and others home from YK Airport







DEPARTMENT REPORT: 2024-25

Dechıta Nàowo Post-Secondary Education

1. ADULT SKILLS TRAINING TO EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Job Readiness and Employability Skills

- Employability skills training; Career researching and exploring
- Updating resumes and cover letters, job searching, and interview preparing
- School life/home balance



Construction Basics

- Students used various tools including screw gun, skill saw, table saw and jack hammer
- Installed interior paneling and vinyl siding, finished window trim and completed access ramp, built wall shelves and coat racks

Heavy Equipment Operator

- Hands-on experience with three types of equipment
- Excavator, loader and rock truck
- Safe operating procedures, general handling, operation and
- maintenance of the machinery

Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) – Portage College

- 4 YKDFN members attended HEO training at Portage College and received
- their HEO certificate – they were given credit for previous HEO training at
- Dechita Naowo, so this significantly reduced their time at Portage College.
- Hands-on experience on excavator, dozer, skid steer and grader and
- completed 160 hours of work placement and industrial safety courses.



Pre-Trades

- Training provided foundational skills for project-based learning
- The course covered science, numeracy, literacy, integrated computer
- technology, trades and employability skills and workplace safety
- Students also learned the basics of electrical and plumbing trades

Environmental Monitoring

- BEAHR Core Environmental Monitoring
- BEAHR Environmental Site Assessment
- BEAHR Environmental Research Skills
- BEAHR Environmental Regulatory Skills

Small Engine Basics

- Focus on snowmobile, chainsaw and generator maintenance
- Students learned how to change spark plugs, clean a carburetor,
- adjust tracking, service power generators and chainsaws and
- how to change oil.



Industrial Safety

- Canadian Firearms
- Predator Defense & Shotgun Handling
- Standard First Aid, Wilderness First Aid
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Chainsaw Operation
- WHMIS
- Food Safety
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods
- H2S Awareness
- Asbestos Awareness
- Fall Protection
- Basework (RSTS)
- Earthmoving (RSTS)
- Common Safety Training
- Roadbuilders Safety Training
- Soils and Mapping
- Skid Steer Training
- Common Safety Training Orientation
- Construction Safety Training System
- Pipeline Construction Safety Training
- Ground Disturbance Level 2
- Driver's Training: Class 3, 4, 5 and 7



Training On-the-Job

- Students participated in Training On-the-Job placements with Det'on Cho Land Tran and the following YKDFN departments: Lands, IT and Environment

2. POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Indigenous Environmental Studies & Sciences Diploma

- Partnered with Trent University to deliver the diploma program bringing together Western Science and Dene Traditional Environmental Knowledge
- Delivered 9 more university level courses so students have completed first year and half of the two-year diploma



Traditional Indigenous Arts Courses

- Loom Beadwork
- Sewing Machine Basics
- Open Studio
- Development of Northern Indigenous Arts Certificate with Portage College

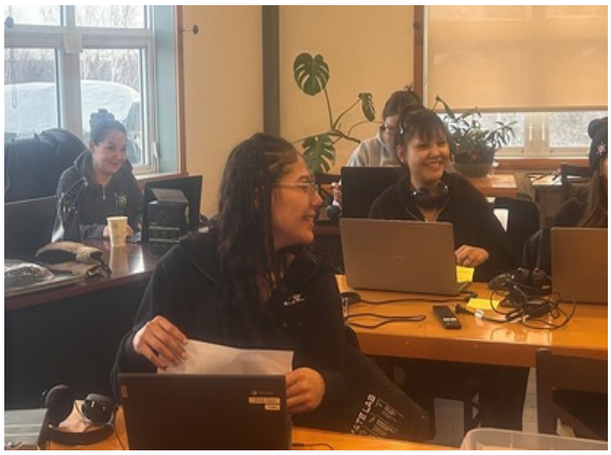


Indigenous Media

- Introduction to Photography
- Short Film Script Writing
- Post-Script and Film-Making Resources

Post-Secondary Preparation

- Post-secondary scholarship workshops
- Tutoring
- SC-Cyber E-Learning High School site & awarding some high school credits
- YKDFN grad celebration
- Annual education excursion to visit universities and colleges, including fundraising
- Post-secondary application support and preparing for academic placement tests
- Finding your Dream Job / Career Assessment Workshop
- School / Life / Work Balance Program
- Post-secondary preparation workshop with K'àlemì Dene School
- Vancouver Island University Community Presentation



Community Outreach

- Nunasi Open House
- Student Christmas Party
- Participation in Geoscience Forum
- Participation in Career Fairs

Education (Early Childhood, Teaching, & Educational Assistant)

- Human Development Course with Portage College
- Learning Wiiliideh through Play with Wellness Bebia program
- Interpreter Training

Greenhouse and Garden Training and Coordination

- Experiential hands-on training with community members with garden plots
- Berry Bush Propagation course (partnered with the University of the Fraser Valley)
- Coordination of Community Gardens and Greenhouses in Dettah and Ndilo



DEPARTMENT REPORT: 2023-24

Housing

HOUSING DIVISION DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Rose Black, *Director*

Nora Sangris, *Administrative Assistant*

Natasha Landry, *Tenant Relations Officer*

Julie Jeffery, *Finance*

John McCormick, *Oil Burner Mechanic/Foreman*

Dennis Sabourin, *Housing Maintainer*

Zachary Sangris, *Housing Maintainer Apprentice*

Nora Mackenzie, *Ndilo Senior Home Custodian*

Nora Crookedhand, *Dettah Senior Home Custodian*

Nancy Black-Choquette, *Housing Office Custodian*

Housing Committee:
(2 yr term ending July 30, 2025)

Philip Goulet, *Chair*

Berna Charlo

Jennifer Charlo

Rachel Crapeau

Eileen Liske

Melissa Mackenzie

We are (YKDFN Housing Division) Agents on behalf of Housing NWT formerly known as NWT Housing Corporation.

Housing Staff are responsible for maintaining the day-to-day Administration and Maintenance for 77 units within two communities:

Ndilo

32 Public Housing

1 Market Rental

1 Help

Dettah

39 Public Housing

3 Market Rental

1 Help

Quarterly Newsletters go out in January, April, July and October to keep our tenants up to date and informed as a way of supporting and educating tenants.

We hired 3 summer students as Maintenance helper to assist with preventative maintenance and water tank cleaning.







#103A DETTAH – REPLACE ROOF AND REPAIR STAIRS

The Housing Division's 2023-24 rent collection numbers are as follows.

Total rent for all units are $ 1,386,868.00. The NWT Housing Corporation subsidized a total of $ 992,026.00, assessed a total of $ 394,842.00 in rent and collected a total of $ 383,548.18 in rent and arrears.

As of March 28, 2024 The Housing Division's total outstanding overdue receivables account (un-paid rent) is $ 351,984.67, which includes both previous and current tenants.

The TRO has been working closely with tenants to try pick up numbers by setting up re-payment plans, assisting clients with Income Assistance applications along with financial assistance from other resources so all our tenants can be in good standing.

We cannot stress enough how important it is for tenants to pay monthly rent, rents not being paid have a huge negative impact on how our office can operate, it affects our budget which affects our ability to perform effectively.

In order to be a successful tenant one must pay their monthly rent and power; cause no tenant damages and cause no noise disturbances.

In 2023, Housing Division completed 16 M&I's (Modernization & Improvement) in addition to health & safety day-to-day work orders.

DATE:	TYPE:	DESCRIPTION:
Apr 2023	**O&M**	**Replace bathroom amenities, bathtub drywall and floor**
	Minor M&I	Replace exterior c/w insulated storm door. 10 units Ndilo, 11 units Dettah
	Major M&I	Replace shingles with metal roof, install eaves troughing
	O&M	Replace blown off shingles
	Major M&I	Replace Roof
	O&M	Interior Paint 60% of unit
May 2023	O&M	Patch & Paint bathroom ceiling
	Major M&I	Housing NWT Capital Project – Exterior Retrofit
	O&M	Repair front exterior stairs, replace rotten wood
	O&M	Bathroom Reno: Replace bathtub, drywall, floor, vanity, mud & paint (price not including materials)
June 2023	Major M&I	Housing NWT Project – Replace Fuel Tanks
	O&M	Patch & Paint unit, replace broken window (TD)
Feb 2024	Major M&I	Re-build mechanical room floor to prevent from caving
March 2024	Minor M&I	Build new garbage bins (3 single, one triple box)
		Interior patch & paint x2 units
		Repair bathroom ceiling and vent x3 units

Our Minor M&I this year will go towards replacing windows throughout three units at a cost of $63,643.65

Housing NWT Capital Major M&I's will go towards Dettah unit #103 they strictly focus on the exterior of the units.

Maintenance is very busy with all yearly re-occurring PM's (Preventative Maintenance) which include: (while responding to work orders in between).

- Condition Rating Inspections
- Forced Air Heating Systems
- Hot Water Heating Systems
- Domestic Water Heater
- Heat Recovery Ventilation Systems
- Freeze Protection Systems
- Water Tanks
- Electrical Systems
- Fire Extinguishers
- Smoke Detector/CO Detectors
- Plumbing
- Sewage Holding Tanks

Every work order is important however, Maintenance responds to the most urgent first. We appreciate tenants' patience!

Maintenance has also completed 1,668 work orders:

- 749 in Dettah
- 919 in Ndilo



#421 TRI-PLEX DETTAH – REPLACE ROOF



#404-406 DETTAH TRI-PLEX – ROOF AND SOFFIT REPAIR

DEPARTMENT REPORT: 2023-24

Public Works and Infrastructure

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS

Public Works and Infrastructure is responsible for;

- Water and Sanitation services to Dettah, Dettah Road and Ndilo.
- Shuttle Bus service between Ndilo, Dettah and Yellowknife.
- Waste Management.
- Community Freezers.
- Wildlife management.
- Asset Management.
- Infrastructure Development.
- Infrastructure Maintenance.
- Municipal service operations
- Emergency Services
- Community Safety

In 2023, the North Slave region experienced a severe wildfire season that led to the unprecedented mass evacuation of the residents of Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah. The evacuation order was issued on August 16, 2023; people started to return home the second week of September. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure continued providing municipal services during this period and concentrated efforts in providing protection against approaching wildfires

Two staff members were added to the department. Markeith Alexis was hired as water truck driver and David Staples was transferred from executive assistant to project coordinator

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Construction of a fire break in Dettah
- Acquiring and testing fire fighting equipment,
- Brushing and cleaning up around the communities of Ndilo and Dettah.

Capital Plan

Chief and Council approved the 2023/2024 5-year Capital Plan by means of BCR. This sets out the projects that YKDFN are committed to implement over the following years and states the source of funding for the different project.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Engineering design for the upgrade of Dettah roads.
- Engineering design for construction of two subdivisions in Dettah
- Conceptual design for an Arbor at the Wiiliideh site

DID YOU KNOW?

The Dettah Fire Department depend largely on volunteers to be fully operational. Please consider signing up.

The Dettah Landfill and Dettah Sewage Lagoon are operated in compliance to our Water License.

Water samples are taken monthly during flow periods to monitor any contamination that might originate from the Dettah Landfill.

YKDFN regularly takes water samples to monitor the effectiveness of the sewage lagoon. This is one of the ways we monitor our impact on the environment.

The chlorine and turbidity levels of every load of water delivered by our water tanks are monitored to ensure that our drinking water in Dettah is delivered safely and meeting the required standards.

DEPARTMENT REPORT: 2024/25

Public Works and Infrastructure

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS

Public Works and Infrastructure is responsible for;

- Water and Sanitation services to Dettah, Dettah Road and Ndilo.
- Shuttle Bus service between Ndilo, Dettah and Yellowknife.
- Waste Management.
- Community Freezers.
- Wildlife management.
- Asset Management.
- Infrastructure Development.
- Infrastructure Maintenance.
- Municipal service operations
- Emergency Services

Community Safety

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, two staff members were added to the department.

- Zachary Campbell was hired as water truck driver
- Victor Crapeau was hired as a casual bus driver.

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Acquisition of the assets of Akaitcho Bay Trucking after Victor Crapeau announced his retirement. The assets include 2 sewer trucks and a parking garage. YKDFN has since been providing sewer services using in-house resources.
- Acquisition of a garbage truck
- Acquisition and installation of a new floating dock in Dettah
- Bathymetric surveys were conducted to identify a suitable harbour site in Dettah

Capital Plan

Chief and Council approved the 2024/2025 5-year Capital Plan by means of BCR. This sets out the projects that YKDFN are committed to implement over the following years and states the source of funding for the different project.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Engineering design for the upgrade of Dettah roads.
- Engineering design for construction of two subdivisions in Dettah
- Conceptual design for an arbor at the Wiiliideh site
- Conceptual design for a new Public Works Garage

DID YOU KNOW?

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Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) Annual Report

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & MISSION

The Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) program in Ndilo is an early intervention preschool program designed for Yellowknives Dene First Nation children aged 2.5 to 6 years old. Established in April 1997, the program has welcomed over 500 children to date, operating on a grassroots, bottom-up approach where the community maintains control over program design to best reflect local First Nations culture, values, and needs.

Our mission is to support the spiritual, emotional, physical, cognitive, and intellectual well-being of Indigenous children while empowering parents and guardians as their primary teachers. Grounded in our guiding principle that early intervention at a preschool age fosters strong self-esteem, a lifelong desire for learning, and opportunities to flourish, AHS provides a safe, nurturing, and holistic environment for all participants.

Program Structure & Daily Operations

Operating Schedule: Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, running from September through the end of June (aligned with the school calendar year).

Class Divisions & Ratios: Maximum enrollment of 32 children across two dedicated age streams: an Age 3 class and an Age 4 class. The preschool maintains a 1:8 staff-to-student ratio, exceeding standard territorial requirements.

Curriculum: Utilizes the Northwest Territories "Aboriginal Head Start: Making a Difference" child-centered curriculum, tailored specifically to meet the unique developmental and cultural needs of First Nations children.

Nutrition & Care: Provides balanced, nutritious meals and snacks prepared in accordance with the Canada and Aboriginal Food Guides, incorporating traditional country foods alongside daily food-safety standards.

Beliefs, Values, and Goals

The AHS program operates under fundamental core beliefs regarding children and community:

Cultural Rights: Children are a gift from the Creator and have the right to live proudly as Indigenous people on their ancestral lands, learning their language, history, and cultural practices.

Role of Elders & Community: Elders are essential carriers of knowledge who guide children to love learning, while community members act as role models teaching how to live a good life.

Holistic Development: Programming integrates culture, health, nutrition counseling, and language preservation into structured early childhood development activities.

Parent & Family Empowerment: In addition to center-based preschool care, AHS offers home visiting services, joint parent-child skill workshops, and family cultural events.

Administration, Licensing, and Reporting

Funding & Oversight: Funded through Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE).

Licensing Requirements: Maintains yearly facility licensing renewals, annual fire, health, and food safety inspections, and annual criminal record checks for staff. First Aid/CPR certifications are renewed every three years, and immunization records and child files are reviewed quarterly and yearly.

Reporting Accountability: Reports regularly to the community via newsletters, parent meetings, and informal strategic planning sessions, while submitting formal financial and narrative activity reports to government funders on weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual schedules.

Recent Achievements & Future Priorities

Key Achievements:

Expanded licensed capacity from 16 to 32 children, eliminating waitlists and increasing local community employment.

Completed a dedicated parking lot project with Deton'cho Construction, creating safe pickup/drop-off areas and designated bus lanes.

Established a dedicated Culture and Language Centre equipped with traditional resources and space for group cultural activities and graduations.

Upgraded facility amenities with new appliances, washer/dryer, interactive media, and Indigenous-themed classroom paint.

Future Priorities:

Transitioning AHS to a larger facility to accommodate growing demand and enable co-location with daycare programming.

Purchasing a new school bus and minivan for program transportation, along with outdoor storage units.

Expanding staff professional development with Elders and Knowledge Keepers, introducing traditional graduation attire, and securing increased funding for family food hampers, winter clothing, and emergency transportation vouchers.

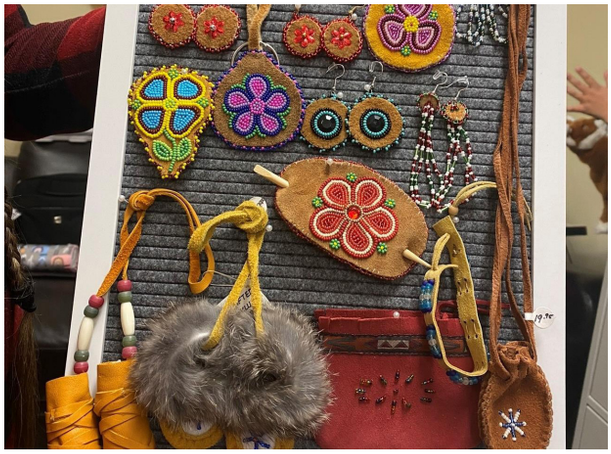












DAYCARE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & OPERATIONS

Prepared by: Niroshi Witharanage

Location: Ndilo

Opening Date: January 2020

Our First YKDFN Daycare

We are a licensed, not-for-profit indigenous childcare centre located in Ndilo.

We offer a safe, caring, and nurturing learning environment for 15 children ranging from 12 months to age 5.

Our bright and inviting classrooms are equipped with age-appropriate books, toys, and activity stations designed to support children in discovering and growing their social, emotional, language, literacy, communication, cognitive, and physical skills.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide exceptional indigenous childcare to our community and strive to meet the social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and intellectual needs of children by providing a carefully planned and developmentally age-appropriate program.

Key Program Goals

To provide an enriched, YKDFN-led early childhood education experience for all children, including those with developmental challenges.

To provide a positive learning environment in which relationships, growth in communication skills, and a sense of self are formed.

To provide optimum opportunities for children to engage in their environment to grow and flourish.

To provide a safe, secure environment in which basic needs (such as nutrition and rest) are met.

To set firm, gentle limits that are both age- and developmentally appropriate, encouraging secure and independent individuals.

Room Profiles & Development

Infant Room: A bright and spacious room providing little ones with a safe and stimulating environment full of fun activities and age-appropriate toys.

Toddler Room: Provides children with a safe space to explore their growing world.

Preschool Room: Focuses on getting children ready for the Aboriginal Head Start program “including potty training” and is organized into learning centers where children can move freely to explore, learn, and play.

Language Nest & Culture

A culture and language teacher spends an hour in each classroom three times a week.

Activities include singing cultural music, practicing drum dancing and drumming, storytelling, reading books for preschoolers and toddlers, and introducing Wìlìideh vocabulary.

Children participate in cooking traditional foods, engaging with cultural classroom resources, and celebrating their cultural identity

to build pride in their traditions and family way of life.

Fees, Restrictions, Goals & Future Outlook

Daycare Fees & Subsidies

YKDFN Subsidized Rates: Infant: $600 | Toddler: $500 | Preschooler: $500

Child Care Fee Reduction (CCFR) Funding (GNWT): All parents receive 50% off their childcare fees regardless of income, with no documentation or proof of income required. The Director submits monthly payment reports, and the finance department applies credits directly to accounts or issues cheques for remaining balances if a child leaves.

Actual Parent-Paid Fees (After CCFR): Infant: $300 | Toddler: $250 | Preschooler: $250

Daily Offerings

We provide hot and cold breakfast, a hot lunch, and a PM snack.

Childcare operates from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

Daycare Restrictions

No outside food or milk is allowed in the daycare.

No visitors, pickups, or tours are permitted during nap time.

The strict cutoff time for drop-off is 10:00 AM.

Pickups must be handled by an adult, and children must be picked up before 5:30 PM.

Daycare Funders

- Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), GNWT
- Akaitcho Government

2023-2025 Goals & Progress

Change daycare license from 3 to 9 infants: Approved and Done.

Open a daycare in Dettah: Looking for a place.

Build fence around daycare parking: In progress.

Pave parking lot and create designated spaces: Pending.

Purchase Daycare Vehicle (IELCC funding): Done.

Purchase daycare bus for field trips: In progress.

Move to a larger building (expanding capacity from 15 to 40 spaces and uniting AHS and daycare): Applying for funding.

Open additional infant/toddler rooms for waitlists: In progress with ECE.





DEPARTMENT REPORT: 2023-24 / 2024-25

Economic Development

Economic Development supports the prosperity and economic independence of YKDFN and its members through employment services, business opportunities and participation in major projects in Yellowknives Dene Territory. These two years saw the Career Centre launch, new agreements take shape and project planning advance, alongside a substantial role in the 2023 wildfire response.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Career Centre: The Centre opened in July 2023 to connect members with employers and employment support. As of August 2023, 34 members had registered and 15 had obtained employment through the Centre.

YKDFN Career Fairs were held in Dettah in June 2023 and in September 2024. The 2024 Career Fair brought together 33 exhibitors, 100 job seekers and 197 Yellowknife students, providing opportunities to meet employers and explore career options.

Workforce Development: In 2024-25, the department developed the proposed labour-market survey scope covering member skills, qualifications, employment barriers and employer needs. The work remained to be completed as of March 31, 2025.

YKDFN's Community Employment Liaison completed Career Development Practice training during 2024-25 while working with YKDFN. She subsequently moved to a GNWT position after this reporting period, an example of a member developing skills through employment with the Nation.

WILDFIRE EVACUATION AND RE-ENTRY

During the August-September 2023 wildfire emergency, Economic Development staff filled emergency operations roles in coordination, information, planning and logistics. Staff developed an online evacuee registration form, maintained and shared registration lists with teams assisting displaced members, and tracked essential workers and members remaining in the communities. Departmental staff also supported door-to-door checks and daily security checks in Dettah and Ndıı̨.

For re-entry, staff coordinated essential worker return lists with territorial emergency officials, helped register Elders for flights and worked with GNWT and other YKDFN departments so Elders could travel together. Staff organized vehicles and drivers for airport reception and transport home. This work was part of YKDFN's wider response with community staff, other departments and external agencies.

GIANT MINE PROCUREMENT AND TRAINING

YKDFN signed the Procurement Framework Agreement in April 2023. In 2024-25, work shifted to implementation and review of the first annual report, circulated in June 2024. The department participated in the quarterly Giant Mine Socio-Economic Working Group and worked with Canada, Parsons and Indigenous partners on employment, procurement and training. Related departmental initiatives received support through the Community Benefits Agreement.

GMRP results for YKDFN	2023–24	2024–25
Expenditures with YKDFN suppliers	$18.3 million	$55.9 million
Training hours for YKDFN members	28,360 hours	32,780 hours

Source: *Giant Mine Remediation Project (GMRP) annual snapshots.*
Note: *Training categories differ between years and are shown as reported by GMRP.*

ONGOING PROJECTS

Taltson Hydro Expansion Project: Participation in the Working Group and Steering Committee included an August 2023 site visit. During 2024-25, the department supported commercial analysis and Council's consideration of submarine transmission routing toward Yellowknife, including the October commercial work and December route package. At March 31, 2025, Taltson routing and commercial assessment, tourism feasibility and labour-market planning still required further work, engagement and decisions before implementation.

Thaidene Nene National Park: Fieldwork documented shoreline access, landing points, overnight locations and navigation for potential boat, canoe and winter routes. Mapping supported further planning for tourism and community-business opportunities grounded in YKDFN knowledge.

PARTNERSHIPS AND ECONOMIC ADVOCACY

Resource development: The department advised Chiefs and Council on the June 2023 Li-FT Power exploration agreement and its provisions for employment and business opportunities. Diavik work addressed socio-economic commitments and closure and reclamation discussions with other YKDFN entities.

City cooperation: Work under the Joint Economic Development Strategy with Yellowknife covered workforce development, entrepreneurship, tourism and airport-display planning.

Leadership and industry representation: The department attended AME Roundup and PDAC in both 2024 and 2025, coordinating delegation meetings, briefings and speaking materials. A September 2024 presentation to the National Indigenous Economic Development Board addressed economic independence, access to capital, funding and Northern costs.

2023–2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

BRIEFING TO CHIEFS & COUNCIL | FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2025

Executive Message

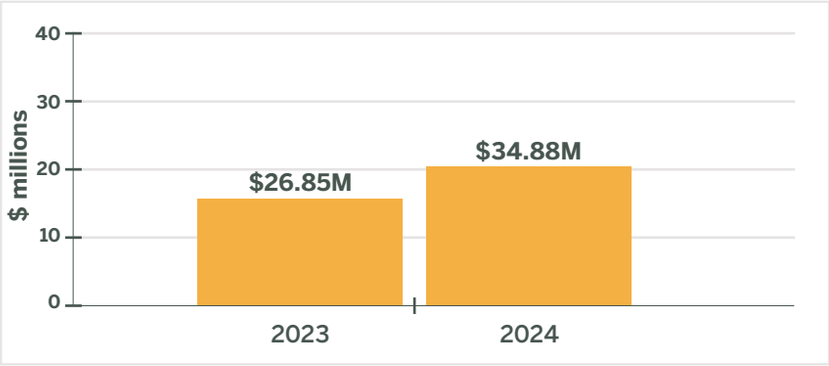
YKDFN ended 2023–24 with a stronger financial position. Net financial assets increased by $8.04 million to $34.88 million, while non-financial assets rose to $19.43 million, reflecting significant capital investment.

FINANCIAL POSITION AT A GLANCE

$34.88M	$19.43M	$2.61M	$15.48M
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS +30% vs. 2023	NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS +$8.17M	OPERATING SURPLUS $0.32M in 2023*	EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES $6.58M in 2023

**Operating surplus before capital transfers and other items.*

Net Financial Assets Comparison



WHAT CHANGED?

- Net financial assets rose from $26.85M to $34.88M.
- The report attributes the increase mainly to a $5.04M rise in amounts due from a related party and an $8.02M reduction in deferred revenues.
- This indicator reflects YKDFN's capacity to finance activities and meet obligations.

CAPITAL & ASSET INVESTMENT

Non-financial assets increased by $8.17M (approximately 73%), from $11.26M in 2023 to $19.43M in 2024. Major capital activity included the retrofit of the Vital Abel Building and single-home construction. The source report identifies a $2.06M increase in tangible capital assets, net of amortization, with a large portion related to these projects.

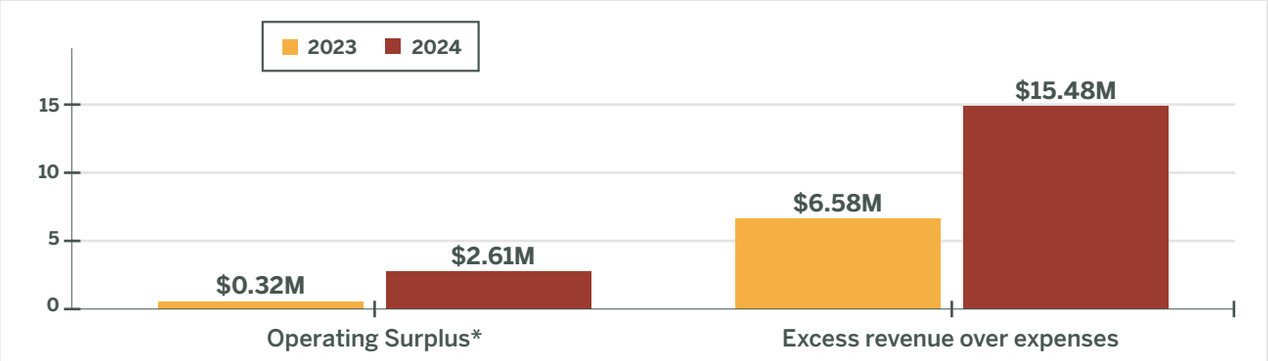
GOVERNANCE & FINANCIAL CONTROL

Financial statements are prepared by Administration, reviewed by the appointed auditors using Public Sector Accounting Board principles, reviewed by the CEO, and presented to Council for approval. Management also maintains internal controls intended to ensure transactions are accurately recorded and authorized, assets are properly accounted for, and financial records remain reliable.

OPERATING RESULTS & COUNCIL TAKEAWAYS

A concise view of performance, expenditure drivers, cash movement and matters requiring attention

Financial Results: 2023 vs 2024



REVENUE

2024 Narrative total: **$30.60M**

2023 Narrative total: **$19.62M**

Increase: **$10.98M**

The report attributes the increase primarily to higher Government of Canada contributions and recognition of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation revenues.

EXPENSES

2024: **$28.00M**

2023: **$19.30M**

Increase: **$8.70M (45%)**

Key drivers were the Vital Abel Building retrofit, single-home construction, increased wages and benefits from filled management positions and new programs, and materials and supplies for new programs.

FINANCE VERIFICATION REQUIRED BEFORE PRESENTATION

The source report contains inconsistent 2024 revenue figures: $30.605M in the narrative, $28.805M in the revenue chart, and $16.863M in the revenue table. The audited financial statements should be used to confirm the final revenue figure before this briefing is issued.

CASH POSITION

Cash decreased by approximately $371,000 during the year. Management attributes the decrease largely to increased tangible capital asset purchases, offset by the decrease in deferred revenues.

KEY MESSAGES FOR CHIEFS & COUNCIL

1. **Stronger financial position:** Net financial assets reached $34.88M, approximately 30% above 2023.
2. **Significant community asset investment:** Non-financial assets increased to $19.43M, reflecting substantial capital activity.
3. **Improved operating result:** The operating surplus before capital transfers and other items increased from $0.32M to $2.61M.
4. **Significant overall surplus:** Including business enterprises and other items, excess revenue over expenses reached $15.48M.
5. **Growth brings higher expenditure:** Expenses increased 45%, driven by capital work, staffing growth and program expansion.
6. **Oversight remains important:** Continued internal controls, regular reporting, capital oversight and monitoring of expenditure growth remain essential.
7. **Prepared by:** Thamsanga Ncube, Director of Finance | Yellowknives Dene First Nation

2024–2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

BRIEFING TO CHIEFS & COUNCIL | FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

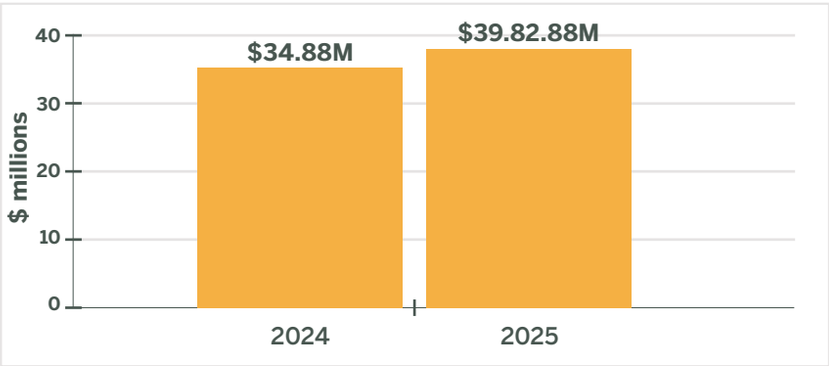
Executive Message

YKDFN closed 2024-25 with a stronger balance sheet. Net financial assets increased to $39.82 million and accumulated surplus reached $65.38 million. Operating revenue and expenses both declined from 2024, while government business enterprise earnings and capital-related items remained significant contributors to the year-end result.

FINANCIAL POSITION AT A GLANCE

$39.82M	$25.56M	$65.38M	$12.89M
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	OVERALL EXCESS
+$4.94M / +14.2%	+$6.13M / +31.6%	+$11.07M / +20.4%	$18.09M in 2024

**Operating surplus before capital transfers and other items.*



Net Financial Assets Comparison

WHAT CHANGED?

- Financial assets decreased by $2.41M to $59.01M.
- Liabilities decreased by $7.35M to $19.19M, driven largely by deferred revenue falling from $20.85M to $14.21M.
- Investments in government business enterprises increased from $15.50M to $21.99M.

•

CAPITAL & ASSET INVESTMENT

Tangible capital assets increased by $6.07M, from $18.81M to $24.88M. During the year, YKDFN purchased $6.49M of tangible capital assets. Total non-financial assets increased to $25.56M, including $0.68M of prepaid expenses and deposits.

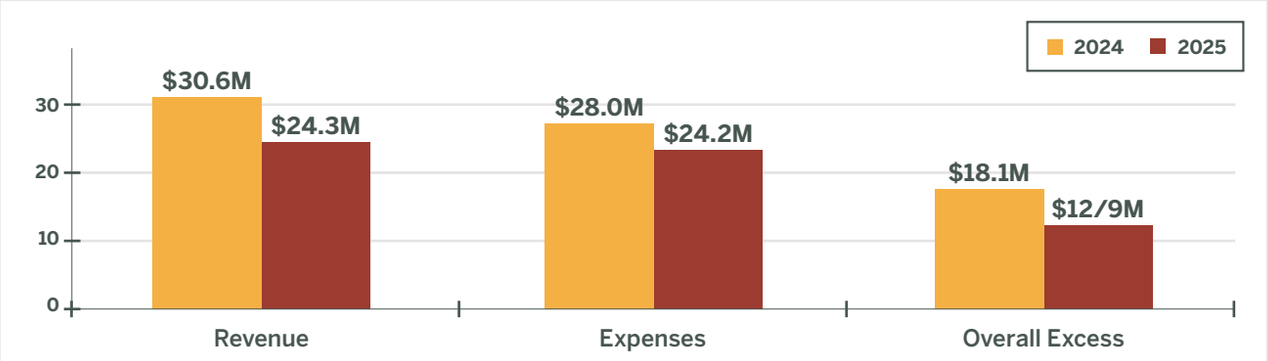
LIQUIDITY & CASH

Cash and cash equivalents decreased by $2.33M, from $15.01M to $12.68M. The cash-flow statement reports $6.49M of tangible capital asset purchases and a $5.94M change in restricted cash during capital activities. Despite the cash reduction, YKDFN ended the year with higher net financial assets because liabilities declined more than financial assets.

OPERATING RESULTS & COUNCIL TAKEAWAYS

A concise view of performance, expenditure drivers, cash movement and matters requiring attention

Financial Results: 2023 vs 2024



REVENUE

2025 Actual: **$24.26M**

2024 Actual: **$30.60M**

2025 Budget: **$37.84M**

Note: Actual revenue decreased by $6.34M (20.7%) year over year and was $13.57M below budget. Major 2025 sources included CMHC ($5.27M), CIRNAC ($4.68M), IBA revenue ($4.13M), ESDC ($3.42M), and GNWT ($2.92M).

EXPENSES

2025 Actual: **$24.24M**

2024 Actual: **$28.00M**

2025 Budget: **$25.96M**

Note: Expenses decreased by $3.76M (13.4%) year over year and were $1.72M below budget. Largest 2025 program areas were Band Government ($6.19M), Housing Strategy ($6.08M), Dechita Naowo ($4.33M), and Community Wellness ($2.41M).

YEAR-END RESULT

Before other items, revenue exceeded expenses by only $28,264 in 2025, compared with $2.61M in 2024. Other items contributed $12.86M, including $6.50M of equity earnings from government business enterprises and a $6.49M transfer to tangible capital assets, partly offset by a $67,480 writedown and $51,791 loss on disposal. The resulting overall excess of revenue over expenses was $12.89M, compared with $18.09M in 2024.

KEY MESSAGES FOR CHIEFS & COUNCIL

1. **Balance sheet strengthened:** Net financial assets increased 14.2% to $39.82M, while liabilities declined by $7.35M.
2. **Accumulated surplus grew:** Accumulated surplus reached $65.38M, up $11.07M from March 2024.
3. **Core operating margin narrowed:** Before other items, the 2025 excess was $28K versus $2.61M in 2024.
4. **Revenue was below budget:** Actual revenue of $24.26M was $13.57M below the $37.84M budget.
5. **Spending was contained:** Actual expenses of $24.24M were $1.72M below budget and $3.76M below 2024.
6. **Capital and enterprise results mattered:** TCA purchases were $6.49M and equity earnings from government business enterprises were $6.50M.

Acknowledgement

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DESIGN AND PRODUCTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

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Notes

Notes



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