

# Together, for the North



Photo: Erik Pinkerton



**Yukon  
University**  
FOUNDATION

A \$4 million campaign to invest in the future leaders and change-makers of the Yukon. Together, we can build the thriving economies, governments and communities that sustain the North.





# *The North is so much more than a place.*

It is a way of life inspired by a vast, magnificent landscape and steeped in First Nations' teachings and traditions.

Our currency is connection.

Adventure and opportunity are everywhere here.

Guided by the indomitable spirit of the wilderness and millennia of resilience and resourcefulness, the Yukon is an ideal training ground for future leaders and change-makers.

Together, with shared purpose and respect, we break a trail toward a better tomorrow.

## **Building a prosperous North starts at home.**

The Yukon is Canada's fastest growing province or territory and, as the home to 14 First Nations, our community is 25% Indigenous. We have a robust mining sector, a burgeoning entrepreneurial drive and an unparalleled opportunity to advance reconciliation and self-determination of Indigenous people.

Building a prosperous North begins with investing in education relevant for the next generation of northern leaders. Every graduate from Yukon University will have the capacity to create positive change.

Photo: Peter Mather





## Yukon University

Yukon University has thirteen campuses spread throughout the territory, with each campus providing education and training specifically aimed to serve those living and working within that region.

We have been responding to and leading change in the Yukon for nearly six decades. With the founding of Yukon's first post-secondary institution in 1963, the Whitehorse Vocational and Technical Training Centre, our story began. Responding to the needs of a growing territory, we broadened post-secondary education and became Yukon College in 1983.

**In 2020, we became Yukon University – the first university North of 60°.**

We are a progressive post-secondary institution that supports learners, organizations and communities on their paths of transformation. Through offering trades training, certificates, diplomas and degrees, pathways to education, and continuing education and training, we deliver what the North needs.

**Photo credits:**  
(Header and Drum) Sheena Greenlaw  
(Inset) Cody Cashin

93%

**93% of graduates  
would recommend  
Yukon University**

25 years

**median age of  
credit students**

1252

**credit students  
enrolled in 2022–2023**

## Decolonizing education and Indigenizing scholarship in Canada

We have embraced the invitation to help Canada make right our collective failings of the past and we are leaders in this change. This means we blaze the trails – and share our progress – for decolonizing education and Indigenizing scholarship in Canada.

We honour and respect the cultures, languages and heritage of Yukon First Nations, their traditional knowledge and world views by proudly walking alongside them on their paths to self-determination.



**99% of Indigenous students,  
and 95% of all students,  
agreed that Yukon University provides  
an environment of cultural sensitivity for all.**



"It's important for me to stay in Carmacks while working on my degree because I am contributing to the community and building capacity here. Living on my Traditional Territory is a piece of who I am. My children are here with me and they have a strong sense of community. This is where their language, culture, friends and family are. YukonU in Carmacks has really supported me – from helping me understand how to apply for grants and awards, to opening up the campus when I needed internet access and fostering me through the process of online learning. With YukonU, the possibility is there to stay home and get an education."

**Nicole Tom**  
*Student, Bachelor of Arts in  
Indigenous Governance  
Chief, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation*







## Research rooted in real-world outcomes that directly impacts Canadians and influences global decision-makers

Yukon University offers exciting research opportunities to solve real-world problems. Research is integrated into many of our classroom experiences. We have a unique ability to provide research and knowledge outcomes from a northern perspective. Yukon University is addressing some of the North's most perplexing challenges, such as:

- Climate change and adaptation
- Impacts of permafrost thaw
- Renewable energy production
- Mine remediation
- Community-based health research
- Indigenous research approaches
- Food security
- Self-governance
- Conservation and land use planning
- Environmental stewardship

We are a key partner for research with industry, other post-secondary institutions, all levels of government including First Nations governments, and we play a prominent role in research partnerships for the circumpolar network of educational institutions.



"Thanks to the many research opportunities at YukonU, I am now a graduate student! I was exposed to classroom-based research and hired as a student research assistant for the Northern Mine Remediation research program. This work inspired me to pursue a graduate degree exploring whether native bacteria can remove blasting nitrates from contaminated mine water. I have support from YukonU experts, access to the lab, and funding from YukonU's academic partners, while working in partnership with industry."

**Taylor Belansky**

*Bachelor of Science in Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences graduate*



Yukon University offers a high-quality education that opens doors to a fulfilling future.



**231**  
students  
graduated  
in 2022

## Yukon University graduates are...

- **frontline health care workers** providing our critical care
- **teachers** reconciling our education system
- **tradespeople** building our infrastructure
- **scientists** exploring and accessing critical minerals
- **advocates** championing the land and the environment
- **innovators and entrepreneurs** driving our economies
- **First Nation and government leaders** advancing self-determination



**61%**  
of credit  
students  
self-identify  
as female



**85%**  
employed in paid  
positions after  
graduation

...and bold, confident thinkers who will be the leaders and decision-makers for tomorrow.



**18%**  
furthered their  
education after  
graduation

### Photo credits:

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(Infographic Photos – top to bottom)  
arould.com, GBP Creative, archbould.com, Erik Pinkerton



# Northern students deserve the best.

Yukon University's programs position graduates to prosper in a future where we live and work in the Yukon. We develop strong leaders and expertise to manage natural resources, to collaborate with First Nation communities, and to operate in northern environments. Our programs and research create social and economic prosperity for Northerners, and for all Canadians.



"Our students are the future of the Yukon and the North. They come to us with aspirations of becoming – be it a business leader, a government worker, a health care practitioner, a welder, a carpenter, a community leader, a teacher, the list goes on. Our students are resilient; they are driven and they are proud. It is Yukon University's role to empower these students to reach their full potential as bold leaders and changemakers who will become powerful forces in shaping the future of the North."

**Dr. Lesley Brown**  
*President & Vice-Chancellor,  
Yukon University*



## At Yukon University, we are committed to:

- Experiential learning, in the classroom, in the workplace, and on the land.
- Integrating leading-edge technologies into learning experiences.
- Strengthening northern cultural heritage for generations to come.
- Creating an agile workforce through skilled trades training
- Teaching and research of relevance to the North.
- Pathways to post-secondary education and employment aspirations.
- Creating leaders for tomorrow.



## Together, for the North

We've been asking how Yukon University can contribute to a vibrant and prosperous Yukon. Here's what you said:

- A skilled workforce – across a wide range of industries and sectors
- Leaders for Indigenous self-determination
- Stewards for the land and the environment
- Innovative adaptations for climate change
- Creative solutions to northern challenges
- Champions of northern cultural heritage

We are proud of Yukon University's potential to impact the future for the North. Our 2022–2027 strategic plan sets forward a bold aspiration to continue to develop northern expertise:

**"We will work to become a recognized leader and catalyst for education and knowledge that is relevant to the North. We will remain committed to the value of skilled trades training in creating an agile workforce to bring prosperity and sustainability to the North, and we will conduct teaching and research that prioritizes northern relevance and strengthens northern cultural heritage for generations to come."**

To attain this goal depends on Yukon University's ability to offer educational experiences that will help foster work-ready – and indeed, future-ready – graduates.

We can't do this alone; we need your help. Together, we can develop opportunities and progress for the North. Together, we are building on northern expertise and talent through practical and innovative education, applied research and pathways to reconciliation.

*We invite you to join us on this journey.*



## Investments from Yukoners have tangible, real world outcomes.

Together, we can create pathways to education and foster Yukon's next generation of leaders in the fields of Indigenous self-determination, northern entrepreneurship, climate change adaptation and sustainable resource development. Investments in recent years have led to tangible, real-world outcomes, such as:

- A \$400,000, four-year contribution from TD Bank Group established an innovative program – IncubateNorth. This 12- to 18-month business incubation program supports Yukon entrepreneurs in growing their businesses locally, nationally and internationally.
- A \$250,000, 10-year investment from Ketz Construction enables an additional 12-student carpentry cohort, addressing an urgent demand for up-to-date skilled workers in this field. In honor of this gift, Ketz Construction Carpentry Shop is the new name for our carpentry training space at Ayamdigut – Yukon University in Whitehorse.
- A \$150,000 funded partnership from Bell Let's Talk Canada and the RBC Youth Mental Well-being Project enabled Yukon University to explore how the National Standard for Mental Health and Wellbeing for Post-Secondary Students could support students across all campuses.
- A funded partnership between the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in government in Dawson City, the Kwanlin Dün First Nation in McIntyre subdivision and the Liard First Nation in Watson Lake, delivered the new housing maintainer program. This led to students gaining key skills to effectively maintain housing stock in rural communities.

Photo credit:  
archbould.com



Together,

**we can help students realize their fullest potential. Join us in raising \$4 million to support the future leaders and change-makers of the North.**

Our students and community partners have helped us identify four key priorities to enhance student experiences and ensure success after graduation:



## Education that serves the North

- Learning technologies and work-integrated learning experiences that prepare skilled trades, diploma and degree graduates to be employment ready
- Student involvement in research
- Supports for program navigation, learning assistance and success
- Land-based learning
- Common first year courses that focuses on key issues in the North

**Photo credits:**  
(left) Sheena Greenlaw  
(right) archbould.com

## Supporting student health and vitality

Supports for mental, physical and spiritual health:

- Counselling support
- Addiction support
- Transition to post-secondary student life
- Food access and food security
- Support for gender identity / LGBTQS+
- Common first year courses that focuses on key issues in the North

## Honouring Indigenous cultures and self-determination

- Indigenous student centre
- Confidence building through cultural identity for Indigenous students
- Elders in the classroom
- New learning opportunities that honor indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being

## Creating pathways to education

- Student awards and tuition supports
- Support for added costs of on-the-job practica while away from home
- Child and family support





"I came to Whitehorse over 20 years ago from Biingtiwaabik-Zaagiing Anishinabek First Nation in northern Ontario and worked as a carpenter until arthritis made it impossible to continue in the trade. Today, I am a YukonU grad and finance clerk with a First Nation government. With the supports at YukonU – like supplies, seminars and writing workshops at the Academic Support Centre, assignment and testing accommodations at the Learning Assistance Centre, or instructors who were always excited to help with our program material – I was able to achieve such success as a student."

**Derek Hardy**  
*Diploma of Business Administration graduate*

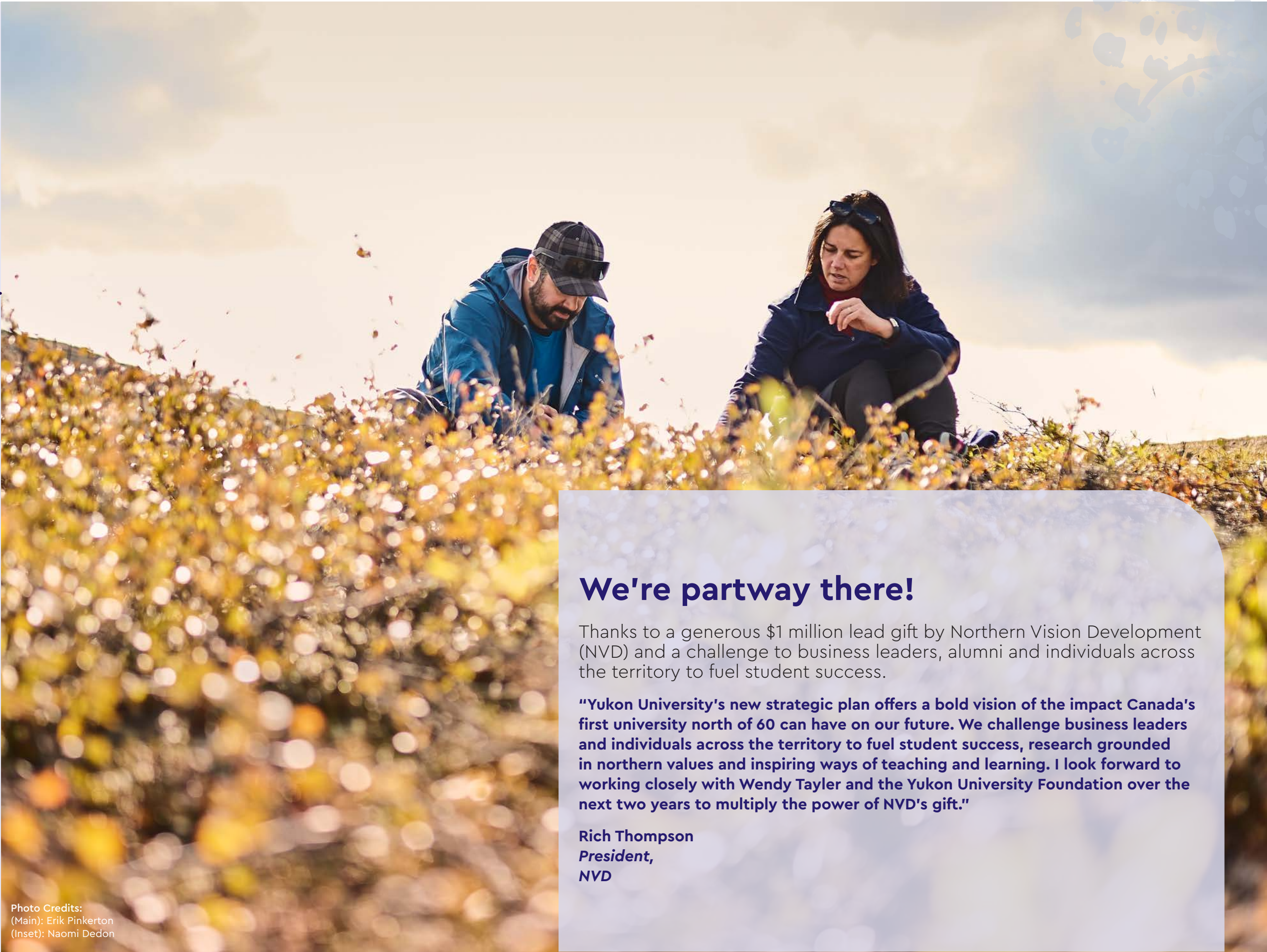


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(Main): Erik Pinkerton  
(Inset): Naomi Dedon

## We're partway there!

Thanks to a generous \$1 million lead gift by Northern Vision Development (NVD) and a challenge to business leaders, alumni and individuals across the territory to fuel student success.

**"Yukon University's new strategic plan offers a bold vision of the impact Canada's first university north of 60 can have on our future. We challenge business leaders and individuals across the territory to fuel student success, research grounded in northern values and inspiring ways of teaching and learning. I look forward to working closely with Wendy Tayler and the Yukon University Foundation over the next two years to multiply the power of NVD's gift."**

**Rich Thompson**  
*President,  
NVD*





Photo: Alistair Maitland

*Together, we can realize a thriving Yukon.*

**A place where we walk together in reconciliation to fuel a strong economy, resilient organizations and capable governments with bold leaders and change-makers who are shaped by Yukon University.**

**We would be thrilled to discuss the impact your investment can make.**

**Wendy Tayler**

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