



Annual Donor Impact Report

Yukon University Foundation | 2024

Executive Summary

With the generous support of our donors, the Yukon University Foundation is providing vital financial aid and support for other vital services for students at Yukon University so they can reach their full potential.

Over the past year, we've expanded our impact by:

- Increasing scholarships and bursaries to support more students.
- Launching initiatives that promote student well-being and resilience.
- Building strategic partnerships with business communities that open new pathways to success for our students.

These efforts ease financial and personal barriers, allowing students to focus on their academic journey and future careers.

This report celebrates the generosity of our donors and the real, lasting difference their contributions make in students' lives. Looking ahead, we are committed to growing our support network and expanding opportunities for the next generation of leaders, innovators, and change makers in the north. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, and the Yukon community, broadly, for their unwavering commitment to Yukon University student success. Together, we are shaping a brighter future in the North.

Table of Contents

Board of Directors	1
Note from President	2
Message from Chair, Yukon University Foundation	2
Student Awards	3
Testimonials	4
Endowments	6
Events	7
Gift and Impact	9
Student Enrollment	14
Make a Difference Today	15

Meet our Board of Directors



Michael Hale, Chair



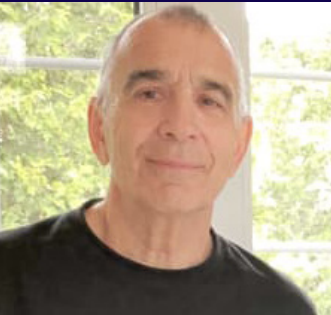
Pat Tobler, Vice-Chair



Rod Snow, Past Chair



Lesley Brown



Peter Densmore



Cynthia James



Tony Maiorino



Piers McDonald



David Morrison



Allison-Rippin-Armstrong



Wendy Tayler

Note from President

At Yukon University, we believe our students are the future—resilient, driven, and deeply connected to the north. Throughout their entire academic journeys at YukonU, we are committed to equipping them with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to become bold leaders and change-makers who will shape our communities for generations to come.

The Yukon University Foundation plays a vital role in making this vision a reality. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, students receive resources for essential financial aid, mental health support, and career development opportunities that empower them to focus on their education and embrace new possibilities. With every gift, we are helping students overcome challenges, excel in their studies, and build a brighter future. Education is one of the most powerful investments we can make in our communities. The impact of our collective efforts extends far beyond the classroom—fueling innovation, resilience, and growth across the north. On behalf of Yukon University, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, and the entire university community. Your unwavering support is transforming lives and shaping the future of the North.

Dr. Lesley Brown
President and Vice- Chancellor
Yukon University

Message from Chair, Yukon University Foundation

On behalf of Yukon University Foundation, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our donors. The Yukon University Foundation remains dedicated to empowering students and shaping a stronger future for the North. The impact of your contributions is evident in the opportunities created for students, the advancement of research, and the overall growth of YukonU as a leader in northern education.

Your support fuels dreams, fosters inclusiveness, and strengthens our Northern community. Thank you for believing in the power of education and for helping Yukon University students succeed. Together, we are building a brighter future.

The Yukon University Foundation is a dedicated group of alumni and friends who volunteer their time to support the university's success. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors for their unwavering support over the past year. If you share our vision of a vibrant and thriving North. We invite anyone who wants to help us build a vibrant and thriving North to connect with Yukon University Foundation by reaching out to any of our board members or Aisha Montgomery at 867-336-0109.

Michael Hale
Chair
Yukon University Foundation

Student Awards

Empowering Students Through Generosity: 2024–2025 Student Awards

At Yukon University Foundation, we believe that education has the power to transform lives. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, 2024 was a remarkable year for student awards, bringing new opportunities and continued support for learners across the Yukon.

Exciting New Awards & Milestones

- We proudly introduced the Fireweed International Student Award, providing two \$500 awards to international students at Yukon University.
- Longtime supporter Sarah Locke expanded her commitment, increasing her endowment to **\$20,000**, allowing her student award to grow to **\$2,000 annually**.
- Renewal of key awards, including the **Kathleen Thorpe Award** and the **Selkirk First Nation Leadership Award**, ensuring continued support for Selkirk First Nation students.
- The **Stantec Two-Eyed Seeing Scholarship** was also renewed, empowering students of Indigenous ancestry.

Investing in Student Success

Each fall, Yukon University proudly presents over 20 diverse awards that support students in various fields, from trades and healthcare to access pathways and capstone projects. These awards provide crucial financial assistance, easing

the burden of education and allowing students to focus on their future.

- In 2024 alone, the Yukon University Foundation distributed over **\$23,000**, positively impacting the lives of **25 dedicated students**.
- **Winter 2025 Impact** -The momentum continued into winter 2025, with student awards **benefiting over 26 students**, totaling more than **\$21,000** in funding. These contributions make a real difference, fueling student motivation and success.

A Student's Perspective

The impact of these awards extends far beyond financial aid—it provides inspiration and recognition. As one recipient of the **Native North Reconciliation Award** shared:

"This award is more than just financial assistance—it is a source of inspiration and validation in my educational journey. It encourages me to continue striving toward my academic and personal goals while staying connected to my culture and values. With this support, I can focus on my studies with greater confidence, knowing that my aspirations are being recognized and uplifted. Your commitment to supporting Indigenous students like myself is truly commendable. I am grateful not only for the financial assistance but for what this award symbolizes: A belief in the ability of education and cultural preservation to drive lasting impact."

Testimonials

Donors play a transformative role in the lives of our students, and their impact is best reflected in the inspiring stories and testimonials shared by those whose futures have been shaped by their generosity.

"Writing the applications for these rewards causes me to reflect and reminds me of what I want from my education and how it aligns with my future goals. Being selected as a recipient provides me with a sense of validation that other people believe in me as well. It provides me with a refuelled sense of purpose and ambition to keep moving forward in the area of my interest."

Recipient of JT Ritter Bursary

"As an older student, the responsibilities of life seldom make higher learning easier to achieve, having recognition for the hard work and a little help goes a long ways towards making a seemingly impossible dream reality! It hasn't been easy, but every little bit helps, from the money to afford more classes and equipment, to knowing your fellow peers and teachers believe in you. This award is a reminder that even someone with a terrible learning track record can achieve, and continue to achieve great things as they go forward. I won't rest until my program is complete and this award is a steady reminder that I'll make it across the finish line after all!"

Recipient of Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Award.

"This award will allow me to offset the lab and field course fees associated with my program. Education experiences in the outdoors often have costs on top of base tuition in order to cover the transportation and technical tools required. I feel that these courses are extremely valuable but the higher costs can be dissuasive. This award can cover some field course fees and allow me to select the courses most relevant to my future career. Thank you to EDI for supporting my YukonU experience."

Recipient of EDI Down to Earth Biology Award



Testimonials

“Receiving these awards will have a huge impact on my education journey as a single Indigenous mother pursuing my degree in Indigenous Governance at Yukon University. The financial support from the Leith Wheeler Indigenous Self-determination Award, Native Northwest Reconciliation Award, Stantec Two-Eyed Seeing Scholarship, and the George & Bell Consulting Indigenous Student Award will help me manage the costs of my education and take some of the pressure off. Each of these awards acknowledges the work I’m doing toward Indigenous self-determination, reconciliation, and leadership. They allow me to focus more on my studies and my role as a mother, without constantly worrying about financial burdens. With graduation just around the corner, these awards will help me finish strong and continue working toward my goal of making a meaningful impact on my community through Indigenous governance.”

Recipient of Leith Wheeler Indigenous Self-determination Award, Native Northwest Reconciliation Award, Stantec two-Eyed Seeing Scholarship, George and Bell Consulting Indigenous Student Award.

“I am truly honored to receive the Fireweed International Award from Yukon University as a Business Administration diploma student. This award has somehow eased my financial burden, allowing me to focus more on my studies and other extracurricular activities. Additionally, the recognition from this award motivates me to strive for excellence in my education and future career. It also strengthens my connection to Yukon University, which fosters a supportive environment for students to succeed. I am grateful to the donors whose generosity makes such opportunities possible, and I am excited to continue my journey with their support.

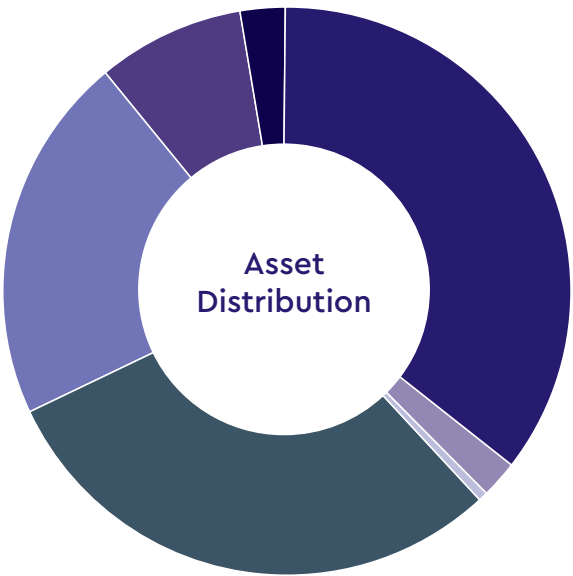
Thank you, Yukon University, for investing in my education and future.”

Recipient of Fireweed International Student Award

Endowments

The Yukon University Foundation is making great progress in building a strong financial base to support students. Over the past year, our endowment investments have shown remarkable growth, reinforcing our commitment to funding student success.

As of March 2024, the Foundation's investment portfolio stood at **\$6,826,160**. By March 2025, that value increased to **\$7,406,607.97**, reflecting a **growth of \$580,447.97**. This increase ensures long-term sustainability for critical student awards, academic programs, and student support initiatives



ASSET CLASS

- Investment-Grade Fixed Income
- High Yield
- Preferred Shares
- Canadian Equity
- US Equity
- International Equity
- Cash & Short Term Investments

Endowments play a vital role in providing scholarships, funding student-focused programs, and promoting additional learning opportunities. Every dollar is managed with care and guided by an investment policy and administrative policy, ensuring funds are established, maintained, and administered responsibly.

To uphold financial excellence, the **Finance, Investment, and Audit Committee** oversees investment management, ensuring that endowment funds are handled with transparency, accountability, and in alignment with our financial policies.

Performance of Yukon University Foundation's Portfolio

Year	Percentage %
1 year Annualized	13.4%
2 year Annualized	12.0%
3 year Annualized	6.2%
4 year Annualized	8.3%
5 year Annualized	8.3%

Events

The Crocus Ball: A Night of Connection, Innovation, and Support for Yukon University

On April 27, 2024, Yukon University Foundation proudly hosted its inaugural signature event—the Crocus Ball. This exclusive and interactive evening was designed to foster meaningful connections between the business community and student success, empowering the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, and change-makers. Crocus Ball was hosted as a celebration of Yukon University's 60th anniversary.

The Crocus Ball brought together business leaders from across the Yukon, and Canada, to celebrate and support the vision of Yukon University and its students. This event served as a platform to highlight the incredible talent emerging from the north, strengthening partnerships between industry leaders, students, and faculty. Throughout the evening, students and faculty showcased their skills and expertise—science students presented innovative projects, including VR experiences, while culinary students prepared an outstanding dining experience for guests. Their contributions demonstrated the remarkable potential of Yukon University students and the diverse opportunities the institution fosters.

The event was highly successful, celebrating student achievements while also fostering future connections. Many business leaders left the evening inspired, pledging their ongoing support for Yukon University and its mission to drive positive change.



Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday, the world's largest generosity movement, was created in 2012 with a simple yet powerful idea—dedicating a day to inspire people to do good. Over the years, it has evolved into a global movement, mobilizing individuals and organizations to create meaningful change.

In the spirit of this movement, Yukon University Foundation hosted a Giving Tuesday pop-up event at Yukon University to support students facing financial hardships. Many students struggle to afford essentials such as rent, food, and transportation, making it difficult to focus on their studies. Recognizing this challenge, we came together to raise money for the Student Emergency Fund, ensuring that no student has to face these challenges.

With the support of students, faculty, and community members, we successfully raised \$6,585—an amount that translates

to providing groceries for 65 students. This initiative reinforced the power of collective generosity in building a stronger, more resilient student community.

At Yukon University Foundation, we believe that every student deserves the opportunity to succeed without financial barriers.

“Giving Tuesday is a wonderful opportunity to support students that need help when the unexpected happens. No matter how much you plan, you cannot predict the future, and the YukonU Emergency Fund is a small way we can support students during difficult times. The generosity of staff and faculty is incredible, and I am so grateful to work with colleagues that care so much”

From YukonU Staff member

Gifts and Impact



1 Soothing Sewing Workshop: Supporting Mental Wellness in Trades

Thanks to Whitehorse Motors' generous commitment of \$250,000 over five years to support student accessibility, mental health, and wellness in trades at Yukon University. Yukon University hosted the Soothing Sewing Workshop, providing trades students with a creative outlet to manage stress while promoting mental health awareness.

With guidance from Yukon University's Elders and counselors, students participated in a smudging ceremony and crafted medicine bags before learning to sew mitts from moose hide, coyote fur, and polar fleece. More than 30 students joined, creating a sense of community, connection, and open conversations about mental well-being.

Trades team at Yukon university also hosted Coffee Breaks, these are 15 to 30-minute breaks that encourage students to connect, unwind, and build peer relationships. In December 2024, students took part in a memorable ice fishing trip, offering a refreshing and enjoyable experience outside the classroom that further supported their well-being.

These programs have made a significant impact, and thanks to the continued support of Whitehorse Motors, many more initiatives are planned to support the mental health and well-being of trades students in the years ahead.

Thank you, Whitehorse Motors, for making a lasting impact on our students' well-being!



2 BMO donation

This year, BMO successfully completed its \$400,000 pledge, and Yukon University extends its sincere gratitude for their generous support.

The BMO donation has been instrumental in advancing Yukon University's Permafrost and Geoscience Research (PGR) group, supporting research, student engagement, and technological innovation.

Some of the Key achievements include- Enhancing Research Capacity, Technological Innovation, Establishing the Permafrost Institute, International Recognition, Community Collaboration.

BMO's contribution continues to drive groundbreaking research, attract major funding, and position YukonU as a leader in northern permafrost studies. As the university works toward launching the Permafrost Institute, this support remains crucial in shaping the future of climate resilience and scientific innovation in the North.

Gifts and Impact

3 Business Symposium

CIBC's generous donation was instrumental in sponsoring the Adventure Day, a key highlight of the Business Symposium. Led by BBA students, this three-day event features research presentations, engaging panel discussions with alumni, and focused sessions on sustainability. The Adventure Day, held on the final day, provided a memorable conclusion to the symposium. CIBC's contribution played a crucial role in covering the expense of this exciting experience, ensuring the event concluded on a high note, further enriching the overall experience for all participants.

“We did lessons that supported my skills and helped me feel more confident and then went down the mountain a few times! It was so fun and I got to bond with friends. I also got to have an adventure, trying something I’m usually not great at. Thanks again.”

Juliana Weber, Yukon University student



Gifts and Impact

4 Tony Maiorino and Karen McNally's gift

Tony Maiorino and Karen McNally made a generous donation to Yukon University Foundation, their generous \$10,000 gift supported the bolstering the student emergency fund which translated last year into a travel for a student from a remote community, and other emergency needs recognized by the student services team.

5 Eagle Hill's gift

Eagle Hill Energy Ltd. Partnership contributed \$20,000 to establish the Thây Tăw Energy Trust to support the offering of and access to land-based education at Yukon University. In a strong commitment to long-term impact, they have also pledged an additional \$4,000 annually for the next five years. This partnership will enhance access to land-based education, providing students with immersive, hands-on learning experiences that integrate Indigenous knowledge, sustainable practices, and a deeper connection to the land. Through this initiative, Eagle Hill Energy Ltd. is encouraging the next generation of environmental leaders while promoting culturally relevant education at Yukon University.

Message from our Donor

"I owe a great deal to my Yukon clients for my success and like to give back to the community. Keep up the great work!"

- Pierre Lacasse

Student Enrollment

Academic Year 2023–2024

Yukon University proudly celebrated the graduation of 188 students in the 2023–2024 academic year, including 39 students who self-identified as Indigenous. These graduates represent a wide range of disciplines and reflect our commitment to supporting diverse learners.

Graduate Breakdown by Program

Program	Number of Graduates	Self-Identified Indigenous
Bachelor of Business Administration	12	2
Bachelor of Education (BEAD)	6	-
Bachelor of Education (YNTEP)	3	2
Bachelor of Science (U of A)	6	2
Bachelor of Social Work	4	-
Bachelor, Indigenous Governance	5	5
Diploma, Aviation Management	1	
Diploma, Business Administration	10	1
Diploma, Early Learning	13	2
Diploma, Earth Sciences	1	
Diploma, General Studies	2	
Diploma, Liberal Arts	2	2
Diploma, Northern Outdoor & Environmental Studies	2	
Diploma, Northern First Nations Studies	1	
Diploma, Northern Science	2	
Diploma, Practical Nursing	13	2
Diploma, Renewable Resources Management	3	1
Pre-Apprenticeship Carpentry	8	4
Certificate, Community Education & Employment Support	1	1
Certificate, Culinary Arts	12	4
Certificate, Early Learning	1	
Certificate, Environmental Monitoring	1	
Certificate, First Nations Governance	1	1
Certificate, Health Care Assistant	11	1
Certificate, Heavy Equipment Technician	7	
Certificate, Liberal Art	13	1
Certificate, Business Administration	13	-
Certificate, Multimedia Communications	8	2
Certificate, Office Administration	19	5
Certificate, Visual Arts	7	1

Make a Difference Today!

Join us in empowering Yukon University students and shaping a brighter future! Your support through the Yukon University Foundation can create life-changing opportunities for students in need. There are several impactful ways to give:

Ways to Give:

1. Online Donation

Make an immediate impact by donating through the Yukon University Foundation's online donation form. Through this form, you can also designate your gift to support a specific student award.

2. Endowments

An endowment is a lasting investment in student success. When you create an endowment then your principal donation remains invested in perpetuity according to Yukon University Foundation's policies, managed and administered by the Yukon University Foundation's Finance Investment Audit Committee and investment manager. The interest earned from this investment is used to support your student awards, ensuring long-term impact.

3. Annual Student Awards

An annual student award provides immediate support to students each year. When you establish an annual award, Yukon University Foundation will invoice you for the award amount annually, ensuring students receive direct financial assistance.

4. Major Gifts Pledges – Flexible, Long-Term Giving

For major gifts, such as funding a research chair or supporting a significant initiative or supporting/creating a program, you have an option to create a pledge. For example, a donor who wishes to contribute \$500,000 can pledge to donate \$100,000 annually over five years, making it easier to fulfill a larger commitment.

Why Give? Benefits for Donors:

1. Charitable Tax Receipt

Most donations qualify for an official charitable tax receipt. Charitable Tax receipt helps you to get tax credit.

2. Personalized Appreciation

Receive a thank-you letter from the Associate Vice-President of Yukon University.

3. Exclusive Recognition for Student Award Donors

Annual impact reports and invitations to donor recognition events.

4. Pledge Donors Receive Exclusive Updates

Yearly reports from department heads detailing the impact of your gift, plus social media recognition and a thank-you letter from the President.

Get in Touch

Interested in supporting Yukon University's students and initiatives? We'd love to connect with you!

Email us at urelations@yukonu.ca

Contact our team

Aisha Montgomery

Associate Vice-President,
University Relations
867-336-0109

Hudson Lucier

Manager,
Advancement and Alumni
867-332-9563

