

yukon
green
party



parti
vert
du yukon

A Better Plan for the Yukon

Yukon Green Party
PO Box 31603, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 6L2
867-633-3392
yukongreenparty@gmail.com
www.yukongreenparty.ca

Table of Contents

[Table of Contents](#)

[Core Beliefs of the Global Greens](#)

[Part 1: Transforming our Economy](#)

[Part 2: Caring For One Another](#)

[Part 3: Respecting the Value of Our Resources](#)

[Part 4: Reforming Government](#)

[In Summary](#)



Core Beliefs of the Global Greens

Participatory Democracy

Working to create proportionally elected governments that represent and engage citizens.

Sustainability

Using natural resources wisely to protect the rights and needs of future generations.

Social Justice

Acknowledging that all humans have a fundamental right to health, well-being, and freedom.

Respect for Diversity

Protecting and valuing all cultures and individuals while conserving variety in the natural world.

Ecological Wisdom

Learning to live within the physical and biological limits of our Earth and to protect its life-giving nature.

Non-Violence

Safeguarding people's security and freedom through cooperation and consensus-building.

About the Yukon Green Party

Like Green Parties around the world, the Yukon Green Party will ensure that its policies reflect the six core values established in the Charter of Global Greens.

The Yukon Green Party will promote the value of sustainability by being fiscally responsible, socially progressive, and environmentally conscious. We are committed to a competitive and green economy. Creating a green economy will create new industries and new jobs. Greens seek to avoid the shocks of boom and bust cycles. We will build a resilient economy — a prosperous economy now and for the future —for *all* Yukoners.

Yukon Green Party representatives will encourage participatory democracy by being a responsible, accountable and transparent government. We will educate on the need to vote and participate and we will relentlessly work toward electoral and legislative reform until our goal is met.

The value of social justice will be respected by creating policies that care about those who are vulnerable. We believe government should encourage hard work and independence. Government should unite people to create strong communities. We are committed to ending poverty by supporting those in need. We believe in working hard for a better future, a better future for all our citizens.

The Yukon is a very diverse region both culturally and ecologically. Diverse cultures, economies and ecosystems are healthy systems and are therefore more stable and adaptable. For that reason, the Yukon Green Party will safeguard these valuable resources by protecting and promoting a healthy respect for diversity.

The Yukon Green Party will uphold the value of non-violence by safeguarding people's security and freedom through cooperation and consensus-building. The Party defends the right of citizens to actively participate in freedom of speech and political activities and encourages current policing agencies to align more with the citizens and lands they represent.

Learning to live within the physical and biological limits of our Earth and to protect its life- giving nature is how the Yukon Green Party will to move forward. It is not a step back, but a step in the right direction to make sure the value of ecological wisdom is employed to ensure our own comfortable survival for generations to come.

Part 1: Transforming our Economy

4

Our current economy tends to benefit the rich and leave the poor behind. It takes into account the wealth generated for the wealthy but does not account for true social and environmental costs.

The Yukon Green Party will transform our economy into one that is well balanced and accounts for the long term goals and needs of all Yukoners. A balanced economy holds everyone responsible for the true cost of what they choose to do or not do. As a measure of progress, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is out of date. It does not take into account social and ecological costs. A Genuine Progress Index (GPI) paints a much truer picture of our well-being. The GPI values unpaid labour such as parenting and volunteer work. It considers the costs of pollution, poverty and crime and the use of natural and non-renewable resources. The goal of introducing a GPI is to combine social, environmental and financial indexes to better measure the well-being of citizens.

“Gross National Product counts air pollution and cigarette advertising, and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage. It counts special locks for our doors and the jails for the people who break them. It counts the destruction of the Redwood and the loss of our natural wonder in chaotic sprawl. ... Yet the gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country. It measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile.”

Robert Kennedy, March 1968

The Yukon Green Party believes that a successful economy is one that is self-sustaining and self-sufficient. The Yukon will face some major challenges in the next decade, brought on by climate change, the world's ever-increasing hunger for dwindling mineral resources and rapid population growth as more and more people discover the benefits of living in Yukon. Our planet cannot support continual economic growth. Peak oil, climate change, vanishing species, a lack of fresh water and polluted air are among the threats that perpetual economic growth poses to our way of life.

We will need to rely more on our own ingenuity and knowledge to provide greater security for our basic necessities, our jobs and our communities. Yukon Greens will promote the diversification of community economies. By prioritizing issues such as the restoration and preservation of our water bodies and the creation of food and waste reclamation industries in all Yukon communities, we can ensure the equal distribution of wealth for all Yukoners.

1.1: The Yukon Green Party would apply Internationally Renowned Economic Concepts:

1.1.1: Steady State Economy:

A Steady State Economy is about economic prosperity and living within our ecological means. In a Steady State Economy, prosperity is achieved by re-localizing everything and creating self-sufficient, resilient and sustainable regions. A Steady State Economy closes the gap between the rich and the poor and creates a territory where all Yukoners can afford housing, food, clothing and where they have access to meaningful work through jobs created locally in the business, government and the not-for-profit sectors. Promising that our salvation can be found in perpetual economic growth is irresponsible and will doom our children and grandchildren to an uncertain future.

5

1.1.2: Triple Bottom Line Accounting:

Greens believe that accounting should consider not only the economic bottom line, but the social, and environmental as well. When faced with decisions of a financial nature, having the actual costs to all sectors is imperative in order to make a truly responsible decision. The Yukon Green Party would ensure all territorial ministries, crown corporations, government funded agencies, and government contractors use this practice. This will guarantee the public is not left paying huge social, health, and environmental cleanup costs in the future.

1.1.3: True Cost Accounting:

Similar to Triple Bottom Line Accounting, with True Cost accounting, the price of a product or service does not currently reflect the full costs of the environmental degradation and public health impacts associated with the virgin resource extraction, processing, manufacture, transportation, and disposal of that product. Often these costs are “externalized” or passed on to the public by industry. Greens believe it is part of the government’s role to create a structure whereby industry incurs the full cost of the product or service they offer. When the market prices begin to include such costs, the more environmentally-friendly product will also be the less expensive.

1.2: Key Goals of Economic Transformation:

- Institute a carbon tax of \$30/tonne that would apply to all consumers through a Fee and Dividend system that would rise by \$10/tonne per year.
- Reduce our economy’s dependence on growth and ever increasing consumption
- Eliminate sources of pollution.
- Create meaningful, morally satisfying and long term jobs.
- Get better use and value from our natural resources.
- Encourage private industry to invest in local examples of an evolving alternative green economy.
- Create a business climate in which more locally owned businesses can prosper.

1.3: Examples of Economic Transformation:

Enshrine the 'Basic Needs of Life' as the Cornerstone of Our Economy by:

1.3.1: Creating a Healthy, Food Secure Yukon:

- Employ farmland covenants, trusts and long term tenure as tools to increase the amount of land used for agriculture, provide access to land for those who want to farm and for whom the cost of land is prohibitive.
- Develop school curriculum that provides children with horticulture, farming and food production experience.
- Support a national initiative for the labelling of all foods that contain genetically modified organisms and other harmful products.
- Support First Nations access to traditional food sources and traditional uses of the land.
- Assist small and family farms so they can compete with large agri-businesses to reduce our dependence on energy and pesticide intensive agriculture and imported food.
- Finance research into making organic food production more commercially viable.
- Cease support for genetically modified organisms (GMOs); keep Yukon GMO free.

1.3.2: Restoring and Preserving Yukon Waters:

- Create multi skill level jobs in waterway management. From waterway cleaners, monitors and managers, right up to water testing, enforcement and research positions.
- Invest in the necessary infrastructure to support these positions and ensure educational courses are available locally.
- Invest in wild fisheries and large-scale rehabilitation of habitat and spawning rivers.

1.3.3: Creating Stable, Appropriately Scaled Wood Industry Employment in the Yukon:

- Provide low interest start up loans to encourage small labour intensive, eco-forestry logging companies and value-added forest product firms.
- Improve the local lumber grading system to allow for more use of locally produced wood products.
- Support companies that want Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for their wood products and help market Eco-certified Yukon Wood Products.
- Institute watershed-by-watershed ecosystem-based management plans and rate of cut determinations based on ecologically sustainable forestry that protects all timber and non-timber forest values, including cultural, environmental, tourism, recreational, and fishery values.

1.3.4: Promoting Fiscal Responsibility:

- Shift taxes off people and business and onto the use and abuse of nature.
- Decrease taxes on industries and individual practices that promote health.
- Return to balanced budgets by ending corporate welfare, eliminating subsidies to polluting industries and municipal projects and developing fair taxation policies.
- End taxpayer subsidies for wasteful and polluting industries.
- Advance 2009 legislation allowing for the return of Credit Unions to the Yukon.

1.3.5: Striving for Zero Waste in all Yukon Communities and Land Use Planning Areas:

- Transform every Yukon landfill and transfer station into a Materials Recovery Facility
- Support and encourage infrastructure and facilities that recycle and re-purpose waste items locally
- Provide educational opportunities for those interested in re-manufacturing recycled materials
- Create integrated 'discard malls' where various recycling and reuse businesses co-exist in a location where consumers can drop off unwanted items
- Make better use of industrial waste
- Place cradle-to-grave recycling responsibility on producers for their products
- Establish an inspection and certification program to allow and encourage the use of recycled and reclaimed materials in new and renovated buildings
- Create demand for recycled pulp by raising taxes on virgin materials and reducing business taxes to zero if possible.
- Factor in recycling deposits to be paid when purchasing all manufactured goods by taxing all virgin materials and reducing business taxes to zero when possible in order to ensure the internalization of recycling costs into the initial price of the product.

1.3.6: Investing in Yukoners:

- Establish courses at Yukon College campuses to train workers to install solar photo-voltaic systems, geexchange home heating and cooling systems, and to conduct general energy audits and perform energy efficiency upgrades.
- Create a service program for youth to receive training and provide six months of service in repairing environmental damage, restoring natural habitats (including, for example, salmon habitat), building park and recreation infrastructure.
- Facilitate First Nations participation as partners in projects that create long-term employment and economic benefits in their communities.
- Offer Clean Air Tax Credits – tax credits for green business initiatives.
- Introduce a Buy Green Yukon campaign that provides consumer incentives to buy made-in- Yukon green products and services. “Untax Yukon Manufacturing.”

1.3.7: Promoting Tourism:

- Renew Yukon Territorial Parks and Government Campgrounds by restoring and improving interpretive services and increasing number of ranger and conservation officer staff.
- Fund the development of new walking and hiking trails in communities, government campgrounds and Territorial parks and programing offering guided day hikes.
- Expand Yukon's protected areas system to 20% of the land base over the next ten years.
- Establish an Eco-tourism industry in the Yukon by encouraging its development through providing education and funding for product development, creating regulation and accreditation programs, and strategies for international marketing and promotion.
- Sustain the development of culinary tourism to support local food and agricultural producers.
- Support the development of a sustainable First Nations tourism industry by commissioning an Aboriginal Tourism Strategy.
- Build sustainable tourism in the communities by funding product development and encouraging investment in new tourism operations and events.
- Continue support for the recent increased investment in tourism marketing to grow overall tourism revenue for the territory.
- Expand the capacity of existing cultural events with the potential to attract visitors, and invest in new events.
- Support Dawson City's bid to become a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Part 2: Caring For One Another

By acknowledging that all humans have a fundamental right to health, well-being, and freedom, the Yukon Green Party is committed to a major overhaul of current policies and mindsets defining our current health and social services, education and transportation system.

In “Together Today for our Children Tomorrow” Yukon First Nations presented “Government” with a vision of a successful community; one where education, health care, government, justice, culture, industry, and basic survival were all seamlessly provided by the community through the individual contributions of its members guided by their elders. The Yukon Green Party supports this vision and sees an opportunity for the Yukon to understand and embrace a broader concept of community and the values it offers, not only to Yukon First Nations, but to all Yukoners, and to the Yukon as a region in general. The success to date of non-traditional programs including experiential programs is something to celebrate and build on.

Instead of taking a reactive approach to health and social issues, the Yukon Green Party will take a proactive approach. Our territory spends far too much money on managing health and social issues, we can save some of that money by focusing on preventative measures. Yukoners will become healthier through initiatives that reduce pollutants and promote more resilient lifestyles through better nutrition and exercise. By cleaning and greening our environment, we can reduce rates of cancer, asthma, and other illnesses. By alleviating poverty and homelessness and providing intelligent guidance and services, we reduce disparity and distress.

Education nurtures and encourages a passion for lifelong learning and the skills needed for students of all ages to participate meaningfully in society. It should therefore celebrate and reward environmental, social and sustainability initiatives and solutions to pressing environmental and social challenges. It should model and advocate on behalf of environmental sensitivity, sustainability, appropriate stewardship and the *Precautionary Principle*. Today's education policy reflects yesterday's knowledge and practices and is in need of a significant upgrade.

Our current transportation systems are major contributors to global climate change, are inaccessible to the poor and perpetuate a need for compromise in favour of motor vehicles. Greens want walkable neighbourhoods, an increase in cycling routes, and affordable public transit systems. Diversified transportation systems are healthy systems and therefore, the more sustainable options – the better.

2.1: Key Goals of Caring for One Another

- Ensure we can all meet our 'Basic Needs of Life', Food, Water and Shelter.
- Reverse the trend towards greater disparity between the rich and the poor.
- Improve efficiency and access to health care and social services in all Yukon communities and demand that where more frugal measures of delivery can be identified, that they be employed.
- Focus on creating lifestyles and environments that promote health and eliminate toxins that contribute to poor health.
- Invest in public health, preventative measures and access to transportation.
- Integrate food preparation, production, experiential life studies, language, passing on of knowledge, money management and general real life skills and responsibilities into school curriculum.

2.2: Examples of Caring for One Another

2.2.1: Health Care and Social Services

2.2.1.1: Improve Transparency and Efficiency of Governance and Administration

- Establish public accountability in territorially-funded health organizations.
- Ensure ongoing Health Canada investment in First Nations health programs.
- Collaborate with neighbouring jurisdictions to bulk purchase prescription drugs.
- Reallocate health budgets towards a variety of public education and disease prevention programs.

2.2.1.2: Provide for People with Special Needs

- Request that the Auditor General review services to persons with disabilities with particular attention to structural barriers.
- Take a partnership approach to developing a strategy supporting people with impairments as full citizens, within a framework that: provides a comprehensive continuum of ongoing services (as well as appropriate capital and one-time investments), supports inclusion in the social fabric, and promotes economic participation.
- Implement an *Access and Ability Strategy* with a commitment to fund its components. Initial actions must address improvements in accessible transportation, health and support services, and income supports.
- Establish services to ensure fair access to programs.
- Appoint an Advocate for Persons with Disabilities as an independent officer of the Legislature, require an annual report be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, and enter into a formal agreement with the federal government to ensure full coverage for those who have some form of fiduciary relationship with the Government of Canada.

2.2.1.3: Promote Healthy Living

- Enforce existing laws for industrial pollution, increase pollution fines, and create a graduated pollution tax that increases with the amount of pollution emitted by corporations and individuals.
- Legislate a territory-wide ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides that restricts sales and provides for appropriate enforcement.
- Implement Right-to-Know Product labelling legislation, requiring a clear hazard symbol on products that contain hazardous levels of carcinogens, GMO's, etc.
- Eliminate the import and use of products and foods containing the most toxic substances as identified by the WHO.
- Increase tobacco taxes.

- Expand coverage to include preventative treatments such as midwifery, yoga, acupuncture, chiropractic, physiotherapy, eye exams, massage therapy, routine physical exams and counseling as needed.
- Legislate restrictions on placement and allowable radiation levels of cell towers, cellphones, Wi-Fi, smart metres and masts.

2.2.1.4: Caring for Those Who are Unwell

- Enlarge the scope of practice of nurses and nurse practitioners.
- Formally involve complementary health practitioners into the mainstream health delivery system.
- Provide adequate access to health care in both rural and urban communities.
- Preserve universal single-tier health care.
- Provide increased and new training programs within the Yukon for doctors and health care professionals for both acute and preventive care.
- Recognize the qualifications of foreign-trained doctors, nurses and other professionals.
- Provide payback incentives for graduating doctors, nurses, paramedics, and other health care professionals who staff facilities where recruitment is currently a problem.
- Increase financial assistance to families providing in-home care for seniors and disabled family members which includes multi-year funding in chronic cases.
- Increase services available at community health stations.
- Implement e-Hospital services that monitor patients at a distance and allow for local provision of timely care.
- Expand home support and home care programs and assisted living services to support people with chronic care needs, including many seniors, so they can remain in their own homes, or in appropriately scaled housing.
- Increase funding for non-institutionalized mental health patients, including children and youth, to provide adequate housing, community-based support, and ongoing outpatient and inpatient care by mental health practitioners.
- Develop a proper psychiatric centre not connected to the Correctional Centre with facilities to treat and rehabilitate offenders with acute psychiatric needs.
- Educate the public about end-of-life issues, allow end to life procedures within strict guidelines for all ages.
- Enact living-will legislation that guarantees people the right to limit or refuse medical intervention and treatment so people have the choice to die with dignity.
- Further promote financial incentives for elderly to renovate their homes to accommodate caregiver and/or family members who will prolong the ability for the elderly to remain in their homes longer.

2.2.1.5: Homelessness

- Work with our local municipal and First Nations governments as partners to ensure that an adequate percentage of newly built housing is affordable.
- Ensure all Yukoners have access to safe and affordable homes by committing 1% of the annual budget to solve housing issues.
- Provide financial support for small-scale, mixed-income co-op and non-profit housing.
- Construct more healthy, energy efficient green housing for people with disabilities and mental health problems and for low-income people.
- Modernize the Yukon Building Code to ensure that buildings are more energy efficient.
- Mandate the Yukon Housing Corp to purchase existing units of market housing that are in current or stalled projects to provide an immediate and expanding pool of permanent below market and market rental housing.
- Allow for the building of smaller homes – as small as 350 sq ft to enable first time home owners to build homes without going into a lifetime of debt.

2.2.1.6: Address Addiction and Substance Use

- Establish an adequately funded full degree granting program in Addictions.
- Support an end to prohibition of ‘illegal’ substances, especially cannabis. Regulate and control the production, manufacture, distribution and sale of ‘illegal’ substances. Control and tax these substances as we do tobacco and alcohol.
- Focus on harm reduction rather than criminalizing substance use.
- Establish drug policies based on clear scientific evidence.
- Treat substance abuse as a health problem, not a criminal problem. Help addicts to stop abusing drugs.
- Support the use of evidence-based, harm reduction practices such as needle-exchanges, substitution treatments, and safe consumption sites, and regulated access with physician recommendations. Implement school-based drug education focused on science, reason, and evidence-based public awareness.
- Ensure that health care professionals offer a variety of options for treatment of addictions of all kinds.
- Regulate access to substances traditionally used for spiritual and/or healing purposes and provide funding for research into their therapeutic potential.

2.2.1.7: Poverty

The Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) will replace all existing income assistance programs. Cost of living and other factors determine the eligibility and the amount of the income supplement. The GLI provides a basic income and removes systemic barriers that keep people poor, untrained,

unemployed or underemployed. At the same time, it encourages employment and job creation. When you streamline access to assistance, the result is a more efficient system and a better quality of life.

Key Goals of Poverty Reduction

- Unify all current income support programs into one comprehensive Guaranteed Livable Income.
- Protect children by securing universal, safe and affordable child care.
- Create tax benefits for companies that provide on-site childcare, flex-hours and job sharing.
- Modernize services for people with disabilities based on a social model of ability rather than a medical model.
- Make training and education more accessible to low-income earners.
- Provide free financial, literacy and education counselling to all low income earners.

2.3.1: Education

2.3.1.2: Investing in Education

- Foster a well-educated, well-trained and productive society.
- Engage all students in 40 hours of community service volunteering as a requirement for graduation.
- Prioritize Re-Skilling programs at all educational levels through special incentives and programs that teach traditional knowledge and courses. (IE hunting, butchering, survival, sewing, knitting, canning, growing, financial management, land based learning, etc.)
- Improve affordability and accessibility as we move towards a more equitable system of adequately funded education.
- Discontinue exclusive funding to Catholic schools as all religions and qualified teachers should be treated equally.
- Ensure schools in each community have equal opportunities and services to reduce the need to take children and youth away from their families and in to large schools in Whitehorse.
- Focus on the individual needs of students with different abilities and interests to make sure all students receive a strong education.
- Use learning innovations and opportunities (IE distance education).
- Reduce educational service access fees and tuition charges for students of all ages, and especially teen and college-aged students. Consider the option of no tuition fees.
- Provide an incentive for post-secondary graduates who work, live and pay taxes in the territory for five years after receiving their degree, diploma or certificate.

- Find an alternative to the per-student funding model to increase flexibility and program options for students.
- Provide training for laid-off workers to get them get back into the workforce by training them for jobs in the 'clean tech' or 'green collar jobs' economy.
- Meet the needs of disabled children, including early intervention for autistic children.
- Provide seismic and permafrost upgrades to schools within the next five years where necessary.
- Promote greater bandwidth capacity with obsolescence resistant fibre optic cabling instead of wireless networks.
- Promote a community school model that provides libraries, recreation facilities, technology and training areas, gardens, fine arts theatres and studios in partnership with municipalities, elementary and secondary schools.
- Fund extra-curricular sports, fine arts, environmental and student clubs that encourage healthy community spirit, creativity and leadership and keep students engaged in a strong learning environment.
- Promote instruction in nutrition and healthy living, including sexual health and sexuality to make sure students understand what it means to live a healthy life.
- Support legislation and budgeting decisions which enable First Nations Education Commission (FNEC) initiatives and priorities such as more curriculum and programs with a First Nation cultural perspective, more approaches to learning that support different styles and needs, and working to achieve higher graduation rates.

2.3.1.3: Early Childhood Education

- Support stay-at-home parental child care by offering free financial management counselling. This will give parents the necessary information to stay home with their kids, and live within their means where possible.
- When stay-at-home parental child care is not possible, and the guardian must work outside the home, an alternative will be offered. An inexpensive but invaluable resource for Yukon parents would be the availability of applicable counselling for assistance programs. Existing programming is not being used as effectively as it could be because of a lack of understanding and overly complex structure.
- Support less institutionalization of children and more community proposed solutions, engaging in more traditional activities and passing on of knowledge.
- Provide equal services to home schooled children, such as income based access to daycare.

2.4.1: Transportation

2.4.1.1: Encourage Sustainable Movement

- Develop a public transit network connecting all Yukon communities.
- Increase cycling routes and lanes within and between Yukon communities.

- Increase subsidization of public transit systems and provide appropriately sized systems in all Yukon communities.
- Sustainably develop vehicle and ride sharing, back hauling and small scale transportation alternatives through the use of technology.
- Limit urban sprawl through the densification of core municipal regions, and the strategic release of crown lands.
- Encourage public participation in transportation system planning.
- Encourage walking, cycling, public transit and car sharing.
- Ensure all future developments incorporate commercial services within residential areas to reduce distances travelled by vehicle, IE a greater diversity of zoning within neighbourhoods.
- Have Yukon Government workers travel to elders' or clients with disabilities' residences rather than making the disabled and elderly travel when possible.
- Encourage the use of efficient off road vehicles for use as transportation and utility aids through special licensing and low cost registrations.
- Regulate the use of ORV's to limit wildlife disturbances and habitat damage by allowing for area closures, limits to users and numbers of users. Include funding for proper enforcement of these regulations.

2.4.1.2: Improving Existing Transportation Services

- Financially assist Yukon communities to provide more bus shelters, wider distribution of transit ticket sales outlets and better clearing of snow on sidewalks and access points for transit services.
- Request and address public input for areas which are not accessible by public transit.
- Improve accessibility in each Yukon community so streets and sidewalks can be navigated by a stroller or wheelchair.
- Encourage Yukon communities to create a transportation network by amalgamating current bus routes with additional buses and modes of transport (IE community shuttles, Husky Bus, express buses, city trolley).

Part 3: Respecting the Value of Our Resources

The Yukon's vast resources provide Yukoners with immediate and accessible food, water and shelter. At least it could if it weren't constantly under threat of damaging, toxic and polluting development.

The Yukon Green Party would enshrine the right of individuals to a healthy environment in the Yukon's Human Rights Commission mandate. This would ensure that all development must meet strict requirements and therefore protect our access to these basic needs of life. By using accounting models and tools for tracking ecological assets, a Green government can effectively prove whether the financial gains of protection versus development are being adequately represented.

3.1: Key Goals

- Enshrine the right to a healthy environment in the Human Rights Commission mandate.
- Include the monetary value of natural resources and natural ecosystem services in all accounting.
- Manage the equitable distribution of resources required to meet the 'Basic Needs of Life'.
- Protect ecosystems and natural resources which naturally provide the 'Basic Needs of Life'.

Examples:

- Encourage industry development in the procurement, manufacture and development of healthy, sustainable housing materials.
- Remove barriers and provide incentives for the growth, processing and providing of local food.
- Prioritize the protection, filtration and infrastructure maintenance required for ensuring a drinkable fresh water supply.
- Differentiate a tax structure for farmers versus country residential in order that farmers may pay less taxes.

3.2: Our Land

The Yukon Green Party believes that fast-tracking one economic activity at the expense of all other interests, and at the risk of losing the underlying value of the land either temporarily or permanently is not true progress, but expediency driven by greed. A healthy environment and responsible resource use is essential for healthy communities and a strong economy. Our plan for the environment focuses on the conservation of resources through improved efficiencies, the reduction of toxic pollutants, and

the protection of wilderness.

The Green Party is committed to restoring and enhancing public and local government control over resource use, development, and the protection of ecosystems. We will re-establish the right of local and First Nations governments to say no to development and resource use that is not in the best interests of their region. This will strengthen the environmental assessment process to ensure resource use is sustainable.

3.2.1: Examples

- Completion of Land Use Planning encompassing full disclosure of all resources within use area
- Consensus based agreements for use based on most sustainable uses of resources within a specific area
- Acquire a new revenue resource sharing arrangement with Canada and one between Yukon and First Nations.
- Support a more equitable revenue sharing agreement with Yukon First Nations or other formula agreed to jointly. The Yukon Green Party will also support increases to royalty rates to reflect the true value of the resource extracted, and the true cost of the loss of any non-renewable resource.

3.3: *Our Water*

- Create multi-skill level jobs in waterway management. From waterway cleaners, monitors and managers, right up to water testing, enforcement and research positions.
- Invest in the necessary infrastructure to support these positions and ensure educational courses are available locally.
- Invest in the necessary infrastructure to support ground water monitoring and protection in case 'fracking' occurs in the Yukon.
- Invest in wild fisheries and large-scale rehabilitation of habitat and spawning rivers.
- Prioritize the protection, filtration and infrastructure maintenance required for ensuring a drinkable fresh water supply.
- Protect the Peel – cpaws.org/uploads/pubs/report_peel-economics.pdf
- Remove the ability for Yukon waters to have any claim of sovereignty by any other jurisdiction or corporation through resisting bulk water exports.

3.4: *Protection of Fish and Wildlife*

Ideally, Environmental Assessment laws and policies should:

- Endorse sustainability as the primary purpose
- Apply to all plans, decisions, and actions that may result in environmental impacts
- Assess all potential impacts (environmental, economic, and social), including cumulative effects and costs
- Identify the best option, by evaluating needs and alternatives
- Involve the public in an open and transparent process
- Ensure that decisions are subject to review if significant (majority) public opposition by an independent tribunal
- Require monitoring of effects and provide effective enforcement options

3.4.1: Examples

- Restore healthy natural fish stocks
- Order Commissioner in Executive Council to add neonicotinoids to Schedule 2 of the Environment Act
- Create local jobs in communities of all skill levels that protect and preserve our fish and wildlife
- Pass strong Species-at-Risk legislation that includes appropriate habitat protection
- Rehabilitate decreasing wild salmon stocks and restore their habitat.
- Evaluate all run-of-river hydro projects pending strengthened environmental assessments
- Increase parks and protected areas system, including aquatic environments, to 20% of the land base over the next 10 years
- Institute a moratorium on oil and gas exploration
- Strengthen the environmental assessment process – give teeth to YESAB and tighten the mandate to ensure that permission goes only to sustainable developments.
- Eliminate sport and trophy hunting of at risk animals, which includes grizzly bears.
- Create jobs that monitor pollution, protect species at risk, and enforce fish and wildlife regulations.
- Increase educational opportunities allowing all of the above jobs to be certified locally, either at Yukon College or through distance education.

3.5: Zero Waste

Waste needs to be seen as a resource and a potential source of revenue. In order to take advantage of new technologies in thinking about waste management, we need to shift away from seeing it as a problem and towards seeing waste management as an investment. The Green Party supports the goal of zero waste to the extent that it can be responsibly achieved. We believe that a goal of zero waste provides direction and inspiration for improving waste reduction. A goal of zero waste is also a major part of our economic strategy because it uses waste, reduces the burden on our resources and creates green-collar jobs. On a per tonne basis, sorting and processing recyclables sustains ten times more jobs than land filling or incineration.

3.5.1: Key Goals

- Transform every Yukon landfill and transfer station into a Materials Recovery Facility
- Support and encourage infrastructure and facilities that recycle and re-purpose waste items locally
- Provide educational opportunities for those interested in re-manufacturing recycled materials
- Create integrated 'discard malls' where various recycling and reuse businesses co-exist in a location where consumers can drop off unwanted items
- Make better use of industrial waste
- Place cradle-to-grave recycling responsibility on producers for their products
- Establish an inspection and certification program to allow and encourage the use of recycled and reclaimed materials in new and renovated buildings
- Phase in recycling deposits to be paid when purchasing all manufactured goods in order to ensure the internalization of recycling costs into the initial price of the product.
- Advocate for extended producer responsibility. EPR is a strategy designed to promote the integration of environmental costs associated with goods throughout their life cycles into the market price of the products.
- Local and imported products should be designed to be reduced, reused, recycled, recovered or composted.
- Support local manufacturers interested in developing and producing bio-based materials.

3.6: Climate Change

Climate change is the critical issue of our time. We know that Yukon on its own cannot single-handedly correct this global problem, but we can become a 'Climate Leader.' Greens understand the need to price the cost of pollution and greenhouse emissions into the economy. We will emphasize energy conservation and alternative energy sources. Our package includes emission targets, regulation and taxation, transportation reforms, increased information sharing and coordination, and adaptation.

Canada, along with the other G7 leaders, committed to a deep decarbonization strategy to collectively address a climate crisis. The Yukon Green Party would ensure that the Yukon lives up to that commitment with the following initiatives:

3.6.1: Deep Decarbonization

- Institute a revenue neutral carbon tax of \$30/tonne that would apply to all consumers.
- Prepare a schedule showing how carbon tax will increase over time to help reach emission targets.

- Shift taxes away from things we want like jobs, and onto things we don't want, like pollution.
- Seek out renewable energy sources for any expansion of the Yukon electrical grid.
- Prioritize community developments that create a sustainable achievement of self-sufficiency and the basic needs of life first; all other developments come second.

3.6.2: Emission Targets

The Yukon Green Party shares the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission targets identified by the Green Party of Canada:

- The Green Party believes Canada should commit to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% below 2005 levels by 2025. Our long-term target should be to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, with further cuts to greenhouse gas emissions of at least 80% to 90%, compared to 1990.

3.6.3: Regulations and Taxation

- Institute a revenue neutral carbon tax of \$30/tonne that would apply to all consumers.
- Prepare a schedule showing how carbon tax will increase over time to help reach emission targets.
- Shift taxes away from things we want like jobs, and onto things we don't want, like pollution.
- Use the taxation and regulation powers of government to achieve targets
- Transfer all current subsidies from the oil and gas industry or other large polluters to environmentally, socially and economically net positive programs
- Place a permanent moratorium on coal bed methane projects and shale bed gas exploration and production – ban fracking.
- Prohibit gas flaring by sector industries, with significant penalties for non-compliance

3.7: *Adapting to Change*

- Establish special task forces to prepare region-specific climate change adaptive strategies involving all stakeholders
- Set up a Climate Change Adaptation fund to assist those regions hard hit by natural disasters
- Create an independent Climate Change Science Panel and an all-party Standing Climate Change Committee or reestablish the Yukon Council on the Economy
- Participate in the Western Regional Climate Action Initiative (WRCAI)
- Include local governments as key players in all initiatives, and provide incentives and increased budgets for successful projects
- Support global verification and certification standards for carbon credits and establish a territorial carbon bank to support the purchase of local offsets in order to interface with those

jurisdictions using a cap and trade system

3.7.1: Building Code Changes

- Modernize the Yukon building code to ensure that buildings are more energy efficient.
- Build smarter: encourage installation of solar systems and pre-wiring for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on new buildings
- Encourage retrofitting of existing buildings to support solar PV systems on all roofs.
- Energy efficiency labeling for new buildings before they are sold or leased, including average energy consumption/m² and estimated annual energy costs

3.7.2: Public Buildings

- Implement a program to energy retrofit public sector buildings such as schools, museums, and hospitals
- Mandate the use of occupancy sensors on all public area lighting, including all multi-tenant and office buildings
- Require that all new publicly-funded buildings are energy self-sufficient and qualify as net-zero GHG emitters by 2020

3.8: Energy

Clean energy does not produce harmful by-products such as sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide, radioactive waste and other toxic or harmful substances. Green energy does minimal harm to the environment and its planning and development considers broader economic and social concerns. In keeping with green principles, green energy projects are smaller scale and managed regionally. A fiscally responsible energy strategy starts by reducing energy waste through increased conservation and efficiency.

Key Goals

- Focus on conservation first, renewables second, push for enhanced efficiency codes
- Phase out imports of oil, gas and fossil fuels in general and replace them with renewable energy
- Enact a moratorium on pipelines to, from or through Yukon
- Invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency that shifts Yukon to a decarbonized economy

- Provide incentives for citizens and businesses to generate their own power and get off the grid and/or generate their own clean and green energy for sale to the grid

3.8.1: Conserving Energy

- Prohibit the use of food products other than local food waste products for the production of fuels
- Require that Yukon's short and long-term energy needs are fully met before foreign energy sales take place
- Legislate Yukon's energy providers serve Yukoners first and foremost. Independent industries and corporations need to provide their own off grid power services
- Reduce our overall energy demands and use existing energy resources more efficiently
- Mandate higher efficiency levels of all government buildings and vehicles

3.8.2: Renewables

- Diversify energy inputs in Yukon communities through renewables
- Promote geothermal, solar, and wind power and strive for 100% conversion to renewable energy
- Investigate methane capture and power generation plants at all waste water and landfill sites
- Independent Power Producers (IPPs) that would rely on biomass energy should only be considered when they directly displace diesel in off grid remote communities.
- Net metering (NM) should be limited to about 10 kW per project. If in the future some diesel generation has to be employed continuously or even intermittently on the margin during the winter months then NM projects on the grid should be allowed to increase to 50 kW per project.

3.8.3: Enhanced Efficiency

- Provide assistance for municipal and community emission reduction programs and energy saving upgrades
- Set goals to achieve energy independence with achievable time lines
- Create a clear reporting relationship for power producers of all levels.
- Favour cooperative and public ownership as well as Independent Power Producers (IPP's)
- Give a 100% Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance for all businesses for energy retrofit costs
- Offer revolving loans for residential or business energy retrofits
- Accommodate renewable energy IPP and renewable non combustion based NM projects pursued by Yukon residents and small businesses.
- Provide a portion of the required project construction costs via low interest loans, no interest loans, investment equity and grants.
- Never in any case allow, provide or offer rate subsidies to either IPP or NM projects.
- All established public or investor owned Regulated Utilities barred from partnering with or investing in Yukon IPP projects.
- Increase rebates for all energy retrofit costs based on before-and-after EnerGuide or infrared heat tests for residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings

3.9: Changing the Way We Farm

Agro ecological farming is the fastest growing agricultural sector in Canada and the most profitable.

The Yukon Green Party recognizes the economic, environmental, and ecological potential of organic and agro ecological farming. We hear the concerns of family farmers throughout the Territory. Industrial models pose numerous risks for our continued health. Intensive larger-scale farming methods make our food supply vulnerable. We believe we can do better.

3.9.1: Key Goals

- Ensure that the Yukon enjoys a high quality, healthy, and plentiful local food supply system.
- Encourage biodiversity and the increase of locally produced food.
- Prevent food-related illnesses, obesity and heart disease
- Encourage urban gardening, community greenhouses and gardens
- Encourage long-term jobs in the food production sector

Examples:

- Stimulate local production to improve regional food security through sustained research and support for local producers.
- Promote small organic producers to raise and sell food.
- Strategize with the distribution chain to support the sale of locally produced food and work to remove any subsidies that distort the true cost of imported foods
- Work with the livestock industries to establish micro-slaughterhouses and help market grass-fed livestock
- Investigate the possibility of agriculture land reserves to ensure future generations may grow their own food (by allocating adequate land for the exclusive use of hunting, fishing and gathering in areas currently designated as crown land, territorial parks and other public lands.)
- Promote cultural sensitivity, exchange and education in regard to agricultural land use.
- Employ farmland covenants, trusts and long term tenure as tools to increase the amount of land used for agriculture and to provide access to land for those who want to farm and for whom the cost of land is prohibitive
- Review locally grown food procurement policies for government and government agencies
- Promote programs to identify Yukon grown agricultural products and promote agri-tourism
- Provide small grants to support municipalities and school boards that wish to initiate, maintain and expand community gardens and urban agriculture
- Compile research to phase out synthetic chemical pesticides and herbicides.
- Make the Yukon a Genetically Modified Organism free (GMO-free) agricultural zone
- Support national initiative for labeling of all foods that contain genetically modified

organisms and other harmful products

- Establish Territorial independence and authority by reviewing slaughter regulations and enabling smaller producers to slaughter on-site under conditions inspected by local health officers
- Provide technical expertise with respect to standards and best practices, supported in part by local experimental farm research
- Set up a heritage seed bank and seed exchange program through the Agriculture Branch and research farm.
- Implement consumer-focused and school-based education designed to foster a preference and a market for local in-season food grown without pesticides using biodynamic or organic farming methods
- Develop a school curriculum (k-12) that provides children with horticulture, farming and food production experience
- Support Yukon College-based programs in sustainable food production, food systems, horticulture including seed saving and preservation of bio-diverse, non-genetically modified food varieties, and traditional farming methods
- Provide transitional assistance for those switching to certified organic farming practices.
- Support a kilometre zero ideal of eating where you live
- Support the inclusion of indigenous people at the agriculture table
- Support farmers' markets and local culinary tourism activities.
- Promote cultivation of green urban space for agriculture and community gardens.
- Shift government-supported research away from biotechnology and energy-intensive farming and toward organic food production.
- Support the prevention of the patenting of life forms.
- Encourage farming methods that increase carbon sequestration and decrease water requirements.
- Support a Community Food Assessment that would establish the first accurate baseline to compare food security within and between all communities in Yukon.
- Support the formation of an arms length Food Security Council similar to many jurisdictions in Canada. Its role would be to facilitate open dialogue between current groups affected by food insecurity and strive to find culturally appropriate methods to increase and maintain a sustainable supply of healthy local food.

3.10: Responsible Mining

For a number of years, mining has been a significant source of investment, jobs, and revenue in Yukon. In order for us to continue to profit from our resources, changes in our practices are necessary. Mining need not come with the high environmental and social price tag it has had in the past. A responsible government providing oversight can avoid many of the negative impacts.

The Green Party is dedicated to ensuring Yukoners will benefit from the work of the mining industry for years to come. We will review laws and make changes to mining infrastructure financing and implementation. We will also couple reform in mining policy with changes in two other areas of public policy - environmental assessment and recognition of First Nations title and rights.

3.10.1: Key Goals

- Reduce the impact of mining on the environment
- Share profits from mining with all Yukoners
- Collect taxes from resource use and/or extraction
- Continue funding academic geology, data collection and continual progression and development of best mining practices.
- Favour small mines over large, and long term extraction processes over short.
- Adopt a 'Best Practices' certification process to ensure individuals and companies are able to reduce negative environmental impacts.
- Reward the entrepreneurial spirit and respect for nature that many small scale miners have through voluntary adherence to 'Best Practices' certification process.

Examples:

- Reinvest all subsidies for mining and mineral developments including exploration to environmentally, socially and economically net positive programs which currently amounts to approximately \$17 million dollars
- Establish a tax on mined resources that gives the people of Yukon, the owners of the resource, a fair return on their investment
- Shift taxes off people and business and onto use and abuse of nature within ten years.
- Develop 'smart tweaks' to current regulations through consultation with industry and miners, rather than large scale changes
- Require that all mining proposals incorporate triple-bottom-line accounting and full environmental assessments, including public hearings
- Ensure that reclamation plans and deposits, including plans to deal with acid mine draining, are in place before active mining begins
- Establish a Mine Reclamation Fund with mined resources tax income to clean up and reclaim old and recently abandoned mine sites and decommission mine access roads when deposits prove inadequate
- Move to cost-based compensation (based on monies spent on developing the property) in cases where mineral claims are expropriated in the public interest, such as for parks or drinking water watersheds.
- Require any third party applying for an exploration or development permit within a designated exploration area to submit a consent document issued by the affected First Nations
- Review and upgrade current reclamation security and bonding provisions and enforcement thereof
- No permits to be issued for plans involving tailings ponds.

3.11: A New Vision for Yukon's Forests

Yukon's boreal forest is an important contributor to the high quality of life Yukoners enjoy. If Yukoners want to continue to enjoy the variety of services that Yukon's forest provide, we must adopt a holistic vision for our forests.

The global economy has stimulated Yukon's small, local forest industry in some regions. The forest industry is likely to continue growing, therefore, Yukon is in need of a comprehensive, sustainable, integrated forest policy. Currently, forests are mainly managed for their timber values. Industrial forestry as practised in other provinces has damaged the environment and put the forests at the mercy of a cyclical economy.

It Is Time for Something Better

The Yukon Green Party is dedicated to strategies that encourage forest management on an ecologically based model. This strategy encompasses all forest values. It incorporates non-resource based values, resource based non-timber benefits as well as encouraging an ecologically responsible forest industry that produces sustainable high quality, profitable forest products.

3.11.1: Key Goals

- Manage our forest resources and values for present and future generations.
- Foster stable, appropriately scaled wood industry employment in Yukon communities.
- Preserve ecosystem biodiversity.
- Promote locally appropriate harvesting methods.
- Promote non-resource based values of Yukon forests.

Examples:

- Ensure that small local industry receives the maximum benefit from our forest resources.
- Encourage the development of value-added processing facilities; no raw log exports.
- Provide low-interest start-up loans to encourage small, labour-intensive eco-forestry logging companies and value-added forest product firms.
- Recognize and encourage commercial harvest of non-timber forest products by local people.
- Support companies that want Forest Stewardship Council eco-certification for their wood products and help market eco-certified Yukon wood products.
- Ownership of the Yukon's timber must remain public; no tenure system.
- Set stumpage rates at fair market value
- Give regional resource councils a mandate to achieve green forest policy goals and play a stewardship role over local forests.
- Wisely Conserve and Manage Our Forest Resources

- Institute watershed-by-watershed ecosystem-based management plans and rate of cut determinations based on ecologically sustainable forestry that protects all timber and non-timber forest values, including cultural, environmental, tourism, recreational, and fishery values
- Maintain natural (fire, wind, insects, etc.) disturbances within the historic range of natural variability.
- Establish sustainable rotation periods for harvesting of wild forests.
- Investigate the feasibility (ecological and economic) of "tree farms".
- Do not allow the use of pesticides and synthetic chemical fertilizers in publicly owned wild forests.
- Maintain the ecological integrity and resilience of forests to reduce vulnerability to natural and human caused stresses.
- Eliminate on site burning of logging and milling waste and encourage use of by-products as per the Future of Bio-Pathways Project.
- Establish a system that ensures transparency in both the government and forest industry.
- Monitor the operations and practices of the forest industry, enforce regulations, and establish penalties for non-compliance.
- Develop forest management plans as an integral part of regional land use plans.
- Yukon's Forest Act and Forest Regulations must be updated to reflect a new vision for Yukon's forests.

Part 4: Reforming Government

The Yukon Green Party has witnessed growing frustration with a political system that is much too inaccessible. Current and future voters alike need to see an upgrade in government practices significant enough to restore confidence in not only the ability to govern, but also the ability to ensure that the rights and values of citizens of Yukon are being respected and represented accurately.

Yukon Green Party representatives will encourage participatory democracy by being a responsible, accountable and transparent government. We will educate on the need to vote and participate, and we will work toward electoral reform until our goal is met. We will restore integrity and accountability to our government through increased public oversight for ministries, Crown corporations, and in public appointments.

4.1: Key Goals of Green Party Governance Reforms

- Encourage greater public participation in our democracy
- Ensure that voters receive fair election results through some form of proportional representation
- Reduce the influence of special interest groups in governing
- Restore faith in the legitimacy and transparency of government intentions

4.2: Examples

4.2.1: Governance Reform

- Replace FPP with most democratic and regionally appropriate Proportional Representation (PR) voting system.
- Implement campaign finance reform to eliminate corporate and union donations, to cap the amount of individual donations, and to restrict donations to residents of Yukon.
- Ensure that government departments have proper business plans that include information on the direction they are taking and reasons for their expenditures.
- Be accountable to the electorate through recall legislation
- Reduce the concentration of power in the Premier's office
- Institute a system of free votes in the Legislature for all matters, including the budget, except explicit votes of confidence
- Initiate a one-hour question period every day the Legislature sits
- Require that all-party parliamentary committees hold public hearings on draft legislation; delegate committees the power to modify the legislation and to have the modified version

considered in the Legislature.

- Cap executive and non-union severance packages in government, crown corporations and other government funded bodies in contracts and bring in line with Yukon employment standards (maximum of eight weeks severance)
- Fill management and other non-union positions from within before seeking candidates from further afield to reduce the likelihood of overly generous compensation
- Provide mentoring and training to develop a pool of well qualified candidates for promotion to executive and management positions from within government
- Establish fixed dates for sittings of the Legislature
- Respond to questions in the Legislature without dodging the issue or filibustering. If an answer is not readily available, gather the information and report as quickly as possible.
- Not use inflammatory terminology in the Legislature.

4.2.2: Whistle Blower & Lobbyist Legislation

- YGP supports Whistle Blower Legislation (WBL) to protect civil servants who provide evidence of government mismanagement, abuses of power and failures to follow or abide by legal requirements or responsibilities
- Improve government transparency by advocating for the introduction of Lobbyist Legislation (LL). Require that all for hire (or industry employed) political or bureaucracy lobbyists be officially identified and enrolled on an open public registry.
- Strengthen and support the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to make information accessible in a timely manner
- Strengthen the Society Act to make societies more accountable and their operations more transparent
- Work in cooperation with other parties when they have an idea or suggestion that does not conflict with our basic principles that we believe would benefit our society.

4.2.3: Cooperation, Balance and Fairness within the Legislature

- YGP MLAs will take a cooperative approach whether as government or opposition or when working with a minority or coalition or First Nations
- Green MLAs will introduce precedent setting parliamentary Assembly operating rules and procedures to change the current Question Period into a Precise Question and Straight Answer Period and promote a Code of Conduct for MLA's that ensures respectful behaviour, direct answers and legally binding obligation to consult and accurately represent constituents.
- Hold MLAs legally accountable to fulfil the job description they swear to uphold.

4.2.4: Decentralizing Decision Making

The current 'top down' approach to governance is a great source of frustration for both individuals and

industries. There is, and always will be, a need for local knowledge to prevail in decision making processes as decisions always impact those living closest to the point of interest. For that reason, the Green Party is committed to expanding the authority of local governments to influence decisions over energy development, social services, and transportation. In consultation with First Nations, local governments would also be able to make decisions about regional growth, climate change, zero waste principles, and agricultural, forests and recreational land protection.

Examples:

- Strengthen the role of local government by transferring power and resources and the autonomy of First Nations.
- Propose new funding formulas for municipal and regional governments to ensure there is sufficient financial support for their new decision-making and programming responsibilities.
- Restore the integrity of local land-use decision-making
- Recommend expanding recall legislation to include municipal officials

4.2.5: Restoring Confidence in Law Enforcement

It is a fundamental principle of a free and democratic state that its police are above reproach. They must be independent of the political powers. They should be committed to enforcing the law in an impartial and professional manner.

The Green Party supports a police service that has the highest conduct standards. The police should earn the respect of all Yukoners. We believe that, as with all public bodies, law enforcement must be subject to reasonable limits and undergo periodic review if police are to maintain the highest level of service.

4.2.6: Key Goals

- Increase public oversight to internal police investigation if current oversight unsatisfactory to stakeholders
- Enhance public trust in our police in all Yukon communities
- Set community supported guidelines on appropriate tools police employ in their duties
- Encourage judicial system to protect society's interests and not only the interests of governments or corporations
- Explore the use of mediation to avoid situations where blockades and protests become violent and disrespectful

4.2.7: Examples

- Appoint an independent Territorial Police Commissioner to oversee investigations of police conduct and process for all jurisdictions.
- Establish a citizens' assembly to make recommendations on policing and law enforcement models for Yukon and make these correspondences easily accessible to the public.

4.3: Valuing First Nations as Governing Partners

While aboriginal rights, aboriginal title, and treaty rights are enshrined in the Umbrella Final Agreement, denial of these rights continues.

In 1996, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) published a report of recommendations to improve the lives of aboriginal people. Disgracefully, little progress made since publication of the report. Denial of aboriginal rights and treaty rights continues. The Green Party believes in implementation of rights agreements and the Royal Commission's recommendations. The Green Party recognizes the need to improve the quality of life of First Nations peoples through improved housing, better education, more employment opportunities, and increased access to health programs, including traditional medicines.

The Yukon Forum represents a valuable opportunity to clarify and align the priorities of Yukon First Nations and the Yukon government. We support the vision of Yukon First Nations' leadership, that the Yukon Forum would work best as originally conceived: a session where each stakeholder makes best efforts to understand, respect, and hopefully assist with all issues brought to the table. Green MLAs would respect and support any consensus decision of the Yukon Forum and would work to have some government priorities set at each Forum.

4.3.1: Key Goals

- Recognize and affirm aboriginal and treaty rights in a fair, efficient, and respectful manner
- Ensure territorial government lives up to the spirit and intent of the Land Claims Agreements
- Equalize funding of all First Nations services with that of non First Nations services

4.3.2: Examples

- Honour Yukon's fiduciary duty to aboriginal people by defining aboriginal title and rights in partnership with First Nations
- Honour existing treaty rights and work in good faith with the federal government to settle the outstanding claims of First Nations and enact historic treaties

- Implement the spirit of the Kelowna Accord, —The New Relationship and RCAP
- Work with First Nations as partners to ensure just consultation and accommodation of First Nations' aspirations and co-management and equitable sharing of natural resources on traditional territories
- Work with First Nations peoples to develop economic capacity for their communities
- Invest in First Nations economic development
- Support First Nations to find solutions to eliminate the disparity in the quality of life experienced by First Nations communities using quality of life indicators as defined by First Nations
- Enhance the First Nations component in the education system curriculum
- Train educators to include materials and methodologies that better inform people on the history of First Nations peoples in Yukon and Canada, the continuing impacts of colonization on First Nations peoples, and the necessity of recognizing aboriginal and treaty rights

In Summary

When you read the Yukon Green Party Policy Book, we believe you will find that our values reflect your values; and, that they are shared by your friends and most other Yukoners.

We want a stronger Yukon and one that promotes responsible prosperity and well-being. All Yukoners want and deserve a more effective, representative and accountable government that makes sensible decisions for the future so that our children and grandchildren inherit a territory where they can flourish.

The Yukon Green Party has A Better Plan for the Yukon

Yukon Green Party
PO Box 31603, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 6L2
867-633-3392
yukongreenparty@gmail.com
www.yukongreenparty.ca