



Program overview

Community Justice and Public Safety



2025 program overview

Repeat offender management and rehabilitation programs

Yukon Community Corrections (YCC) provides supervision and supports to adults on bail, or adults serving sentences in the community. Recently, YCC collaborated with stakeholders to discuss improvements to Yukon's approach to repeat offender management. The following are the recent improvements that have been implemented to enhance Yukon's repeat offender management approach:

- increased information sharing between YCC and the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, prior to bail hearings;
- continued collaboration with the RCMP in monitoring and enforcement of repeat offenders;
- expanded case management practices by YCC, aimed to address criminogenic risk factors of individuals; and
- additional supports provided to individuals associated with YCC, including access to various program opportunities, and in-house outreach services and clinical counselling.

It is important to note that interventions through YCC are just one part of a multi-pronged approach to reducing and breaking patterns of repeat offending. YCC will be reviewing collected information to assess the success of this updated approach.

Bail Verification

Bail Verification reports are a mechanism that can be utilized to verify an individual's release plan when considering judicial interim release. If ordered by the Court, a YCC probation officer verifies the release plan of an accused. The probation officer seeks to verify the following information: employment, proposed residence and ability to reside there, commitment to support services, and proposed surety information. This information is then submitted in a report to the Court, the Public Prosecution of Canada, and defence counsel, to support the bail appearance with the intention of identifying verified information for consideration.

Yukon Community Corrections supervision process

Yukon Community Corrections (YCC) probation officers supervise individuals who are subject to court-orders relating to bail, probation orders, and conditional sentence orders. As such, YCC probation officers work with the individuals to ensure the conditions within their order are adhered to. The probation officer has the authority to direct individuals under their supervision to report in person or by phone, at the frequency deemed appropriate, considering the needs and risk level of the individual. During these check-ins, probation officers monitor compliance with conditions and offer programming and supports to individuals.

YCC also works collaboratively with the RCMP to ensure all clients throughout the territory are upholding their court-ordered conditions and are held accountable for violations of these conditions. If facts support charging a client with breaching a condition, either the probation officer or the local RCMP will initiate that process.

Restorative justice

Restorative justice provides an alternative path to justice that works to directly address harm caused by crime and reduce the “revolving door” of re-offence patterns. It includes victims in deciding the appropriate resolution after a crime has occurred. It allows people – including business owners – who have been offended against to meet face to face with the individuals responsible, get to the bottom of what happened, and how their actions have impacted community members.

Not all criminal matters are eligible for restorative justice diversion. The *Criminal Code* and the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* set out baseline legal criteria, including that the accused person must be willing to accept responsibility for their actions in relation to the offence. The Department of Justice has also negotiated a protocol with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada and Yukon’s RCMP that sets out additional criteria and processes for adult restorative justice diversion referrals for federal offences.

When a criminal matter is diverted to a restorative justice program, the intake process also assesses whether the offender is genuinely willing to engage in a restorative process. A file will not be accepted if, after meeting with the accused, the program does not think there is a strong likelihood of genuine engagement. Victims, including business owners for business or property-based offences, have the right to information about available restorative justice options and will be contacted if the person who offended against them has been referred to a restorative diversion program.

Victims do not have to agree to participate in a restorative process, but they can ask questions about options available to them, which may include use of a proxy victim or voicing their input through a written victim impact statement. Without victim participation, a matter may still proceed through diversion, but it will not be a restorative justice diversion process in that case. Participation in a restorative process is the most direct way for victims of a crime to have an active voice in determining the conditions the offender must complete and sharing directly with the offender how their actions have impacted others. Victims participating in a restorative process will also gain an understanding of the circumstances that led to the offence. The process is an opportunity to rebuild trust within our shared communities.

Restorative justice is not the same as standard mediation, where parties may ultimately “agree to disagree” at the end of a facilitated discussion. In restorative justice, the process proceeds from a starting point that one person has caused harm to another, and the outcome of the process is focused on acknowledgement and reparations for that harm.

Outcomes of a restorative process include conditions, developed together with the victim, that the offender must complete. Common examples are:

- financial restitutions;
- reparation in kind, such as fixing a fence or shovelling snow for the victim; or
- a written apology or completion of relevant treatment or counselling sessions.

There is room for unique and creative solutions appropriate to the specific situation and persons involved. The restorative program monitors completion of the offender’s conditions and is required to report back to the referral source (police or a Crown prosecutor).

Adult pre- and post-charge criminal diversions to the Department of Justice’s Integrated Restorative Justice diversion program (in pilot form from 2021–25) show that 21 per cent of diverted matters are property crimes with the remainder being crimes against a person.

Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Unit

The SCAN Unit is a complaint-driven, territorial law enforcement agency that supports community safety by investigating and responding to illegal activity occurring habitually at, or originating from, a property. This is different from the RCMP’s criminal investigations. However, the SCAN Unit will continue to share information with the RCMP as appropriate to support the RCMP’s criminal investigations into crime in the territory.

Yukon citizens who are concerned about specific illicit activities negatively affecting community safety can confidentially report a complaint. The Unit operates across the Yukon and can investigate specified uses under the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*, including:

- illegal firearms trafficking;
- organized crime;
- child sexual exploitation;
- bootlegging;
- illegal activities related to prostitution;
- drug trafficking; and
- illegal distribution of cannabis.

The complainant's identity is confidential and will not be revealed at any time, nor will they be required to be involved in investigative or court proceedings that may result from the complaint.

The SCAN Unit actively consults and works in cooperation with local support agencies to promote community safety. Whenever proceeding with SCAN actions or resolutions, SCAN investigators make every reasonable effort to work with these support agencies to provide protection and assistance to vulnerable people.

The SCAN Unit has signed protocols with 10 Yukon First Nations governments to implement SCAN legislation in their communities. These protocols support First Nations community safety through the SCAN Act. They also support the SCAN Unit in working with the First Nations to pursue complaint resolution through community conferences, peace-making circles or other restorative justice practices. The agreements underline the importance of collaborative work to safeguard the public safety of First Nations' most vulnerable citizens, including those struggling with substance use challenges.

To confidentially report a suspicious property:

Phone: 867-456-SCAN (7226)

Toll-free (in the Yukon): 1-866-530-SCAN (7226)

SCAN@Yukon.ca

yukon.ca/scan

Other community safety and wellbeing initiatives

Community Safety Committee

Many of the community safety issues in the Yukon require an integrated and collaborative response. Law enforcement agencies, healthcare practitioners, justice professionals, First Nations governments, special interest organizations, and social service providers recognize a need to foster relationships between organizations to address complex, multi-faceted community concerns and public safety issues in the Yukon.

To foster key partner relationships, the Community Safety Committee (CSC) was established in 2015 to:

- build partnerships and improve coordination in response to key community safety issues;
- foster communication about current services, emerging challenges, community issues, and new opportunities;
- offer a forum for service providers, advocacy groups, community stakeholders, and social networks to identify safety issues, troubleshoot concerns, develop strategies, and share information;
- identify opportunities for innovative approaches that address critical or emerging community safety issues, especially those that may be addressed by coordinated action; and
- provide partners with an avenue to offer (or seek) referral routes between different service sectors, agencies or organizations.

The next CSC meeting will be in the spring.

Community Safety Planning

The Government of Yukon helps build safer and stronger communities by supporting community safety planning initiatives in communities across the territory.

Through ongoing collaboration with the federal government, Yukon First Nations governments and municipalities, the Government of Yukon continues to advance community safety planning and implement initiatives that enhance public safety.

The Government of Yukon acknowledges the importance of developing safety plans and initiatives for First Nations communities that reflect their unique circumstances, incorporating traditional knowledge and culture to create safer and more resilient communities.

Community Safety and Wellbeing Planning is a process that promotes community wellness and develops actionable plans tailored to the specific priorities of each community. These plans collect input from community members and available data on the challenges faced by specific communities and the resources available within them that support resiliency. The plans identify actionable priorities to advance work at the community level to improve safety and wellbeing.

In 2023, the Government of Yukon launched the Community Safety Planning Program. It provided up to \$200,000 to local governments to develop and implement Community Safety and Wellbeing Plans. So far, Kluane First Nation, Ross River Dena Council, and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation have accessed funds to support their community safety planning projects. The Department is currently working on an agreement with Liard First Nation.

In February 2025, the Department of Justice and the City of Whitehorse partnered with the Canadian Centre for Safer Communities (CCFSC) and the Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative (ACSPI) to develop a Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan for the City of Whitehorse. The community safety planning and wellbeing planning will be an inclusive process, which will include all key community partners and stakeholders including Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Whitehorse nonprofit organisations, the City of Whitehorse, Yukon Government departments, the Whitehorse business community and Council of Yukon First Nations.

Victim Services

Victim Services provides information and support to individuals impacted by crimes, including business owners and employees.

Individuals interested in connecting with Victim Services can expect confidential, client-led support. Services can be accessed at any time, no matter when the crime occurred. Services are available to victims of all ages, genders and backgrounds. Victim Services staff will help clients understand and navigate their options regardless of whether the crime has been or will be reported to the RCMP.

Victim Services has three physical office locations: in Whitehorse, Dawson City and Watson Lake. Victim Services Workers can also travel to their assigned communities to meet with clients, in addition to corresponding by phone, text and email. Individuals wanting to connect with a Victim Services Worker can contact one of these offices directly, email victim.services@yukon.ca, or ask another community service provider to refer them.

Support and advocacy provided by Victim Services is determined through conversations with the victim and may include:

- Helping victims develop safety plans.
- Supporting victims to apply for protective court orders.
- Helping victims understand the legal system, including police investigations and court proceedings, and how they can participate in these processes.
- Accompanying victims to provide statements to the RCMP.
- Providing updates on the progress of police investigations, including the status of charges and any developments regarding arrests.
- Providing updates on court proceedings, including the custody status and release conditions of the accused, if applicable.
- Accompanying victims to court when they want to attend or have been subpoenaed as a witness.
- Accompanying victims to meet with a prosecutor.
- Assisting victims in preparing to testify in court.
- Helping victims prepare and file Victim Impact Statements and reading those statements in court on a victim's behalf when requested.
- Providing information to community groups or organizations on how to prepare and file Community Impact Statements.
- Helping victims apply for financial restitution on matters before the court.

- Advising victims of other resources/service providers available to them and providing referrals as needed or accompanying them to access these services, including but not limited to:
 - counselling/mental health supports,
 - housing and transportation supports/resources,
 - First Nations cultural programs and supports,
 - legal information and supports,
 - gender-based violence supports, and
 - subsidy programs and other financial supports.

Victim Services also facilitates the following specialized programs:

- Family Information Liaison Unit – provides support and advocacy for family members of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People.
- Sexual Assault Response Team – provides a confidential network of services for victims of sexualized assault and/or family members supporting a victim.
- Independent Legal Advice Program – provides access to free legal advice and information for victims of intimate partner violence and/or sexualized assault.

For more information or to connect with Victim Services, please contact:

Whitehorse office: 212 Main Street, Suite 210 – 2nd floor, (867)667-8500

Dawson City office: 813B 3rd Avenue, (867)993-5831

Watson Lake office: 820 Adela Trail, (867)536-2541

Or email: victim.services@yukon.ca