



2023-24

Year-in-Review

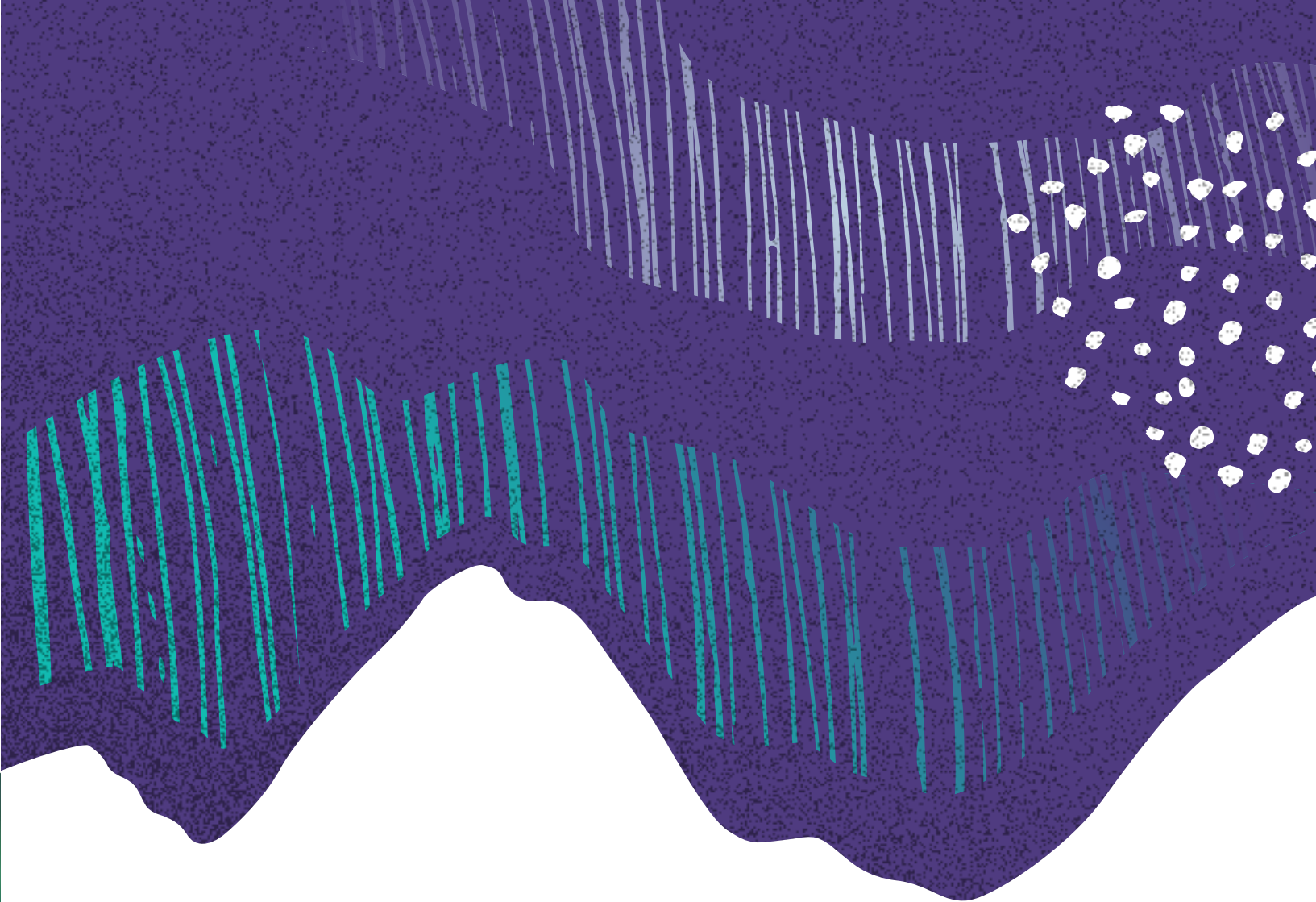


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Message from the Chair, Board of Governors

David Morrison

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I am pleased to present Yukon University's Year-in-Review for the year ended March 31, 2024. This annual report demonstrates Yukon University's progress and major achievements of the past year in advancing our 2022–27 Strategic Plan, BECOMING, which sets out the path for YukonU to realize the promise and potential of being Canada's first university North of 60.

This is our second report on the goals of this Strategic Plan. We've made significant steps toward becoming a thriving learning and research community leading Canada's North. Our faculty, staff, and leadership have made significant contributions on all aspects of this vision.

Yukon University's Board of Governors is committed to ensuring accessible, affordable, relevant post-secondary education—close to home. Over the past year, this diverse group of passionate, engaged Yukoners focused its efforts on the following:

2023–28 Academic Plan

In June 2023, the Board approved the University's first Academic Plan. This foundational document approved in coordination with the University's Senate, will provide a blueprint of our academic programs over the next five years and beyond.

Reconciliation Framework

The University's reconciliation efforts have been years in the making and involved many across the institution over time. However, this year saw the culmination of that work as a framework of the University's reconciliation plan was endorsed by the Board in December 2023.

Polaris Project

The construction of the University's first academic building has continued to occupy a great deal of Board attention during this reporting period. During this time, the Board confirmed the procurement model, secured additional funding and engaged key contractors to commence building in the next fiscal year.

These major milestones coincided with work on our internal governance, which saw major updates and revisions to key policies and governing practices in alignment with our Strategic Plan.

Together, we celebrated the Class of 2023 that was made up of 219 graduates, including eight graduates of the Indigenous Governance program. Convocation 2023 also celebrated the diversity within our community, an honorary degree awarded to writer Ivan Coyote for their contributions to literature.

We are pleased to see uptake in our new homegrown degree opportunities, while we simultaneously welcomed all-time high enrollment into both pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship trades programs. We feel confident that YukonU can serve community priorities for education, nurture intellectual passions, while developing a talented labour force.

In addition, I want to personally thank all Board members for their work over the last year. In particular, I want to commend outgoing Board members Chris Milner, Joel Cubley and Pearl Callaghan for their hard work and dedication. I also want to welcome incoming Board members Brenda Butterworth-Carr, Sam Robertson-Lawless, Samreen Ahmad, and Victoria Fred. Mark Wedge, Judy Gingell, Christine Mahar and Jason Bilsky have let their names stand and been reappointed for another term.

The Board of Governors is proud of the accomplishments of YukonU for 2023–24, and we look forward to striding forward with purpose and possibility into year three of our Strategic Plan.



**Message from the
President and
Vice-Chancellor**
Dr. Lesley Brown

People are at the forefront of all that we do at Yukon University. As we look back on the 2023–24 year, we celebrated our third year as a university and the 50th anniversary of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, and as we continue to strive to build Canada's first university north of Sixty, we continue to honour the leaders and changemakers that have forever shaped the vision of the Yukon and the vision for Yukon University.

I'm beyond grateful for the team of leaders committed to making YukonU a place of knowledge sharing and community building. This past year, David Morrison was reappointed as Chair of the Yukon University Board of Governors. His dedication to the university and care for community goes beyond advancing the strategic plan at YukonU, and he continues to be a strong advocate for northern post-secondary education.

As well, it is my pleasure to share that in her role as Associate Vice-President, Reconciliation, Gągala-łiłatko Nadia Joe has cultivated relationships with Yukon First Nations governments and the Government of Yukon to advance Yukon University's commitment to reconciliation. Her leadership in supporting the development of the Yukon University Reconciliation Framework has created a collaborative environment built on mutual trust. Nadia's cultural knowledge is instrumental as we move forward as a university.

Building on those strong relationship measures, we appointed Aisha Montgomery as Associate Vice-President, University Relations in September 2023. Aisha has a deep comprehension for the importance of YukonU's relationships with municipalities, First Nations governments, Yukon and federal governments, and many other partners to move projects forward. A steadfast advocate for YukonU, she uses her role to further government relations, development, marketing and communications, and alumni engagement.

A great point of pride was the 2023 Convocation, where we celebrated 219 graduates and recognized Dr. Ivan Coyote with Yukon University's first ever honorary doctorate degree for sharing their message of safety and compassion with students. An avid writer and storyteller, Ivan empowers others to live their truth and encompasses our values by promoting an environment of safety and trust for students to be themselves. Ivan has become an important asset in driving Yukon University towards an inclusive university.

As I reflect on the 2023–24 year, I am encouraged by the many positive and supportive contributions from our staff and faculty who are driving change and who are making lasting impacts in the lives of the students who choose to come to YukonU. In this report you will read many inspiring examples of the steps our people have taken to elevate northern priorities for education to bring opportunities that include land-based learning and other values of community, Indigenous cultural practices, language and Indigenous knowledge to learners of all ages. Significant advancement of co-developed research programs with First Nations are yielding results that support self-determination in critical areas around climate change, energy, environment and health, and demonstrate commitment for continued relationship building and toward reconciliation. Significant renovations to our physical campus spaces improved both the efficiency of our buildings and improved quality of life for our students and their families.

It has been an incredible year at YukonU and we look forward to all that lies ahead. Thank you for sharing some of your time with us as you read through this report.

Yukon University Board of Governors

March 31, 2023

David Morrison
Chair

Carol Geddes
Vice-Chair

Jamena James Allen
Chancellor

Dr. Lesley Brown
President and
Vice-Chancellor

Samreen Ahmad

Judy Gingell

Kathleen Van Bibber

Mark Wedge

Christine Mahar

Tom Ulyett

Dr. Sara McPhee-Knowles

Dr. Joel Cubley

Samara Robertson-Lawless

Jason Bilsky

Brenda Butterworth-Carr

Victoria Fred

Yukon University Foundation

The Yukon University Foundation continues to support Yukon University's strategic vision with the aim of securing \$4 million dollars through its inaugural campaign, *Together for the North*.

The campaign is focused on four key areas: education that serves the North; student health and vitality; honouring Indigenous cultures and self-determination; and creating pathways.

Thank you to all the partners and donors investing in YukonU students and ensuring their future success.



Tina Woodlands from Whitehorse Motors visiting trades students at Yukon University and donating \$250,000 to the Yukon University Foundation.

2023-24 highlights

Education that serves the North

- Yukon University announced Dr. Rebecca Major as the new research chair for the Indigenous Governance Degree program; a position supported by a generous \$1M gift from Northern Vision Development.
- A private donor pledged \$250k to enable the hiring of a research chair to support the development of a Northern Bachelor of Social Work curriculum.
- Six Yukon businesses supported the Summer Biz School with generous donations totalling \$17,500: Make-IT Solutions, \$5,000; Total North Communications, \$5,000; Neighbourly North, \$1,000; Kobayashi & Zedda Architects, \$5,000; Mammoth Agency, \$500 in cash and \$4,500 in in-kind services and mentorship for participants; and, Yukon Built, \$1,000.

Supporting reconciliation: honouring Indigenous cultures and self-determination

- Eagle Hill Energy Limited Partnership gifted Yukon University \$20,000 to support land-based learning initiatives, with an additional pledge of \$4,000 per year for five years.
- We established the George & Bell Consulting Indigenous Student Award, a \$2,000 student award disbursed bi-annually to Indigenous students enrolled in either the Bachelor of Business Administration or Bachelor of Arts, Indigenous Governance program. The award provides financial support towards successful completion of their capstone projects.
- We established the Native Northwest Reconciliation Award. This award will provide \$500 awards to two Indigenous students each academic year to support post-secondary educational journey related to wellness, learning, and culture.

Enhanced student experiences

- Whitehorse Motors provided a gift of \$250k to support the development of mental health programming for trades students at Yukon University.
- The Foundation raised over \$3,500 during #GivingTuesday2023 thanks to generous contributions from faculty, staff, the Board of Governors and the Foundation Board. These funds provided emergency grocery cards to support students facing food insecurity.
- The family of Steven Michael Donoghue established a memorial award in his name. Worth \$3,000 annually, the award will support students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences program, with half to be disbursed as an annual award, with priority given to Yukon First Nations students enrolled in the program, and half to support land-based learning opportunities for the program.
- Superior Propane provided \$2,500 to support food costs for the Fall 2023 land-based Quest course, an annual cornerstone of the Bachelor of Business Administration program.
- Tony Maiorino and Karen McNally's generous \$10,000 donation significantly bolstered YukonU's Student Emergency Fund, which is disbursed by the Student Services team. These funds support compassionate travel costs, address food insecurity, and other emergent needs of our students.

Access to education

- We disbursed a total of \$59,250 in donor-supported student awards to 49 students in the 2023-24 academic year.

YukonU campuses

Yukon University strives to recognize and integrate Indigenous values, cultures, languages, ways of knowing and doing across programs, services, governance, policies and space.

We are guided by the Yukon First Nations people who have lived, worked and thrived on the land through time immemorial. We acknowledge the visionaries, thinkers, and leaders who first set the course for this university in the seminal 1973 document *Together Today for our Children Tomorrow*. First Nations leaders envisioned a university in the Yukon to allow students to learn close to home, and remain connected to family, community, and culture. They also envisioned education programming that meets their needs.

Today, Yukon University is proud to be situated on the homelands and traditional territories of all fourteen Yukon First Nations, with physical connection through 13 community campuses.

While the outlined of these territories are depicted on the adjacent map, we encourage readers to learn more about the nations and these lands. Some valuable resources include:

Self-governing First Nations

mappingtheway.ca

Not self-governing First Nations

liardfirstnation.ca
whiteriverfirstnation.com
rossriverdenacouncil.com

Alice Frost Community Campus, YukonU Old Crow is within a fly-in community within the Traditional Territory of the Vuntut Gwitchin Government.

Tr'odëk Hätr'unohtän Zho, YukonU Dawson City is within the Traditional Territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

Hets'edän KÚ', YukonU Pelly Crossing is within the Traditional Territory of the Selkirk First Nation.

Dän Hänádän K'enjik, YukonU Carmacks is within the Traditional Territory of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.



Dakwākāda Dän Kenādän Yū, YukonU Haines Junction is within the Traditional Territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

Ayamdigut Campus, YukonU Whitehorse is within the Traditional Territory of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation.

YukonU also has a small campus within the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

YukonU Carcross is within the Traditional Territory of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation.

YukonU Teslin is within the Traditional Territory of the Teslin Tlingit Council.

YukonU Watson Lake is within the Traditional Territory of the Kaska Dena people.

Dena Cho Kê'endj, YukonU Ross River is within the Traditional Territory of the Kaska Dena people.

YukonU Faro is within the Traditional Territory of the Kaska Dena people.

YukonU Mayo is within the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.

BECOMING: Strategic Plan 2022–27

We are an exciting place of transformation at Yukon University; the place between what is, what is yet to come. To imagine this future, we drew on the strength and pride of our past and we opened our hearts to the fullest of possibility. We also reached deep into the core of our existence and reminded ourselves of all that could not be compromised. Now, as we step confidently into our future, we aspire to create change, to make tomorrow better, and to boldly, humbly lead Canada's North.

Commitments

- 1 Build our identity and nurture our culture as a university
- 2 Take our place in advancing reconciliation
- 3 Continue to develop our northern expertise
- 4 Develop bold thinkers and confident change leaders
- 5 Be leaders for the common good

Vision

Yukon University will become: A thriving learning and research community leading Canada's North.

Mission

We provide inclusive, quality education experiences that equip learners to seize opportunities, make change and positively impact local and global communities.

Values

1. Quality
2. Just society
3. Integrity
4. Relationships



Convocation 2023
Photo: Erik Pinkerton

1 Build our identity and nurture our culture as a university

Commitments

- Nurture a culture of staff and faculty engagement, development, and satisfaction.
- Develop new academic programs and grow our research impact and intensity.
- Recognize and celebrate excellence in teaching, research, and service contributions.
- Strengthen ongoing engagement and knowledge sharing with our communities.
- Strengthen our impact beyond Canada's borders.
- Increase our communications and brand awareness across Canada.

Build our identity and nurture our culture as a university

YukonU.ca

2023-24 accomplishments

In 2023-24, YukonU celebrated 60 years and is still growing strong. The year-long celebration reflected on our roots as the university continues to grow.

In 2023-24 YukonU made strides in staff and faculty development and advanced excellence in research through significant appointments. For example:

- Dr. Fiona Schmiegelow, an esteemed senior scholar in wildlife and conservation science, was appointed Dean of Applied Science and Management. Dr. Schmiegelow's experience as a leader and northern scholar make her a natural fit for this position.
- Erin McMichael has taken on the role as our Registrar and Associate Vice-President, Student Life. Her extensive background and experience further strengthen our commitment to fostering respectful student relations while creating opportunities for student success.
- Dr. Rebecca Major became the inaugural Research Chair in Northern Governance, a position made possible by a generous \$1 million donation from Northern Vision Development.
- Assistant Professor Dr. Sara McPhee-Knowles was appointed Chair of the Yukon's Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.



We're only getting started, and our vision as Yukon University is to become a thriving learning and research community leading Canada's North.
– Dr. Lesley Brown, President and Vice-Chancellor

YukonU recognized and celebrated excellence in teaching, research and service:

- Drs. Fabrice Calmels and Benoit Turcotte were recognized as part of a select group of Canadian academics in disaster resilient infrastructure, collaborating with the Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- The Northern Energy Innovation research group was part of the teams behind two successful major network grants – an \$83.6M Canada First Research Excellence Fund award to the University of Victoria on accelerating community energy transformation (supporting Canada's Green House Gas mitigation goals), and a \$24M New Frontiers in Research Fund award to the University of Toronto called CANStore focused on seasonal storage of renewable energy. Dr. Ross's research will receive \$5.2M over the next six years as part of these initiatives.

YukonU instructors brought learning opportunities to students while strengthening community engagement in learning:

- The Yukon Virtual Geology website was launched delivering interactive 3D tours accessible for students and the public.
- Public events such as the Evening with Yukon Writers hosted by instructor Jamella Hagen shared works by students of Creative Non-Fiction course (CRWR 242) and local authors to an audience of 75.
- YukonU's Specialist in Creative Engagement and Expression, Ivan Coyote, hosted 90 creative consultations for students, faculty and members of the public; hosted a public reading event with author Cherie Dimaline that engaged over 200 people including high school and YukonU students, faculty and staff, and members of the public; and introduced Free Write Fridays for 35 students, faculty and staff and members of the public.

- YukonU and YSPOR hosted the 2023 YSPOR Health Summit, which engaged 145 in-person and 50 online attendees. Participants included representatives from 10 Yukon and 2 transboundary First Nations and 26 First Nations health and wellness representatives. The summit was offered in person concurrently in Whitehorse, Dawson, and Old Crow.

Toward development of new academic programs and growing research impact and intensity:

- YukonU unveiled its inaugural academic plan highlighting goals such as developing new degree programs, enhancing Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing, and fostering interdisciplinary and experiential learning opportunities.
- YukonU made progress developing education programming in the areas of healthcare and social work. YukonU submitted a proposal to the Government of Yukon to develop a Yukon-based Bachelor of Science in Nursing, worked to offer distance learning for the Health Care Assistant Program, worked to create and implement a bridging program from the Practical Nursing Program to year three of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The university took

steps toward reintroducing a Medical Office Assistant stream and secured funding to recruit and hire two senior faculty for the Bachelor of Social Work program.

- Setting foundations for demonstrating research impact, YukonU was awarded a \$1.4M NSERC's Mobilize Grant that will support mobilizing research knowledge to partners through over the next five years.

In 2023–24, YukonU increased its impact domestically and abroad through both representation of senior leaders within key organizations, as well as through learning exchanges and opportunities:

- University President Dr. Lesley Brown was appointed to the University of the Arctic board of directors. Associate Vice President, Reconciliation Nadia Joe became UArctic's VP Indigenous, strengthening YukonU's place and voice for education and research in the circumpolar north.
- Dr. Brown was also appointed to the Board of Fullbright Canada, the foundation for exchange between the US and Canada.
- Yukon University joined the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), making us the first CRKN member located in Canada's North.

- Twelve students from across northern Canada (5 Yukon, 3 NWT, 2 Nunavut, 2 Labrador) enrolled in a ten-day YukonU course that took place in Norway and Finland. During the trip, students visited four northern Scandinavian communities and visited Sámi educational institutions, businesses, and families. This trip was funded through UArctic's North-to-North program.
- YukonU and UArctic hosted a research seminar, focused on challenges and opportunities in mine remediation. Dr. Guillaume Nielsen, Industrial Research Chair in Northern Mine Remediation, hosted the seminar attended by 25 experts from around the circumpolar North and focused on successful remediation projects and community engagement approaches. A publication from this seminar is in production.
- Nine Renewable Resources Management students participated in a YukonU field school in Peru where they supported renewable energy projects in an off-grid Indigenous community of the high mountain Andes.
- Yukon School of Visual Arts instructor Nicole Rayburn showed her painting and video work to the Other Art Fair in Sydney, Australia, and built connections for future collaborations in New Zealand.



Earth Science students learning geology
Photo: Guillaume Nielsen

2 Take our place in advancing reconciliation

Commitments

- Centre Indigenous knowledge in curricula, teaching practices, physical spaces and planning, hiring and review practices, leadership styles, organizational structures and governance.
- Work together with First Nations governments to support and prioritize their needs for education and research, and to uphold their self-determination.
- Redress social injustice through truth-seeking, education and decolonizing actions.
- Create an Indigenous student centre as a place of gathering for connection and cultural practice.

2023–24 accomplishments

- To guide the approach to centering Indigenous knowledge in all aspects of the University, YukonU made substantial progress on its reconciliation framework, titled "Breaking the Dawn: Reimagining Reconciliation through Re-education," including workshops with staff and visits to Yukon communities.
- Toward meeting the needs of First Nations learners, Yukon University expanded a partnership with the Mastercard Foundation's Yukon EleV Program in 2023–24. Over the course of the partnership, \$11.4M in funding will go towards developing an education model for reconnection, a Yukon First Nations training fund, a framework to offer micro-credentials, youth-led Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) community programming, and more. In the first five years of this partnership, YukonU and EleV connected Indigenous students with teachers, coaches, and mentors, supported STEM programming, and backed the Yukon First Nations Climate Action Fellowship.
- The Mayo community campus staff used Indigenous art as a tool for healing from trauma and grief. This cumulated in five students embarking on an 18-day journey to Norway and Finland to exchange ideas and cultural practices with the Sámi people. During the exchange Na-Cho Nyäk Dun citizens and Sámi people shared traditional skills and discussed efforts to protect and revitalize languages and Traditional Knowledge.
- The Northern Energy Innovation research team partnered with the Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation to develop the Community Energy Systems course in Old Crow as part of addressing the nation's priority needs around diesel reduction and self-determination. The team also delivered the Community Energy Systems Course in partnership with the Hamlet of Paulatuk and the Paulatuk energy working group.
- With the Kluane First Nation, Northern Energy Innovation completed its support to the front-end engineering design for the Kluane N'Tsi Wind Project. The project is expected to be commissioned in 2024.
- The Climate Change Research Group co-hosted the Winter Polar Festival with Kluane First Nation, University of Ottawa, and Université de Montréal in Burwash Landing as part of the Kluane Climate Futures project. The kick-off event for the project included presentations, workshops, outdoor skating and setting fishnets on the lake.
- In partnership with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, the Permafrost and Geoscience research group completed a project funded by CIRNAC's Climate Change Preparedness in the North program, which, since 2018, allowed the establishment of a knowledge base for a community-led program to monitor and study permafrost. It provided for ongoing, continuous data collection to assess the rate of permafrost thaw with climatic change into the future. The community will be able to use these outcomes to develop adaptive strategies based on CAFN priorities. The project also provides a template for study of other permafrost affected regions in the North.
- A Northern Mine Remediation course was developed and delivered to two communities. High school students from Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Selkirk First Nation participated in the ten-module, in-person courses.
- YSPOR worked to centre First Nation priorities for health research:
 - The Junior Researcher Program engaged Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Selkirk First Nation youth initiating studies on Indigenous health services and youth wellness.
 - YSPOR launched a funding awards program that supported initiatives to preserve and share traditional plant medicine, enhance reproductive care, pilot addiction healing and on-the-land programming, focusing on cultural values and two-eyed recovery. YSPOR also collaborated on projects examining COVID-19 impacts, vaccine attitudes, and Indigenous perspectives on aging, ensuring community voices and needs are integral to health research and outcomes.
- In partnership with Selkirk First Nation and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation governments, YukonU Youth Moving Mountains delivered a land-based camp for forty young people that braided traditional ways of knowing from Elders and First Nations recreation staff with Western science activities. Some engaging activities included scavenger hunts that used Northern Tutchone language and fishing games to teach salmon ecology and food-gathering skills.
- Toward establishment of a new Indigenous student centre, YukonU initiated planning for a new space for the Samay Thà Harry Allen lounge with an anticipated opening in Fall 2024.
- YukonU's Provost served as witness on Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs concerning improving graduation rates and outcomes for Indigenous students. The Provost was also a panelist on education access issues with CICan pre-congress "Forum for Colleges and Institutes serving Indigenous rural remote and northern communities".
- Together with the Yukon First Nations Education Directorate and the First Nations School Board, YukonU worked toward increasing the number of Indigenous teachers. The partners secured \$2 million over four years from the Rideau Hall Foundation that will be used to expand land and community-based programing, funding co-teaching in core courses, funding rural practicums, and funding Yukon First Nation language training for our students.



The Permafrost and Geoscience research team measures trees split from thawing permafrost to determine the rate of change.
Photo: GBP Creative

2023-24 accomplishments

- YukonU's proposal to develop a Yukon-based Bachelor of Science in Nursing and other health related education initiatives will support critical workforce needs in the health care sector.
- Northwestel and YukonU teamed up to create practical courses to train the northern Indigenous workforce for Customer Service and Technician roles.
- Taking action to address the current housing crisis, and contributing to development of the skilled trades workforce, YukonU and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations partnered on the Housing Maintainer Program that resulted in a new home for CAFN citizens in the Takhini River subdivision.
- The Permafrost and Geoscience research team visited monitoring sites and analyzed data to better understand the permafrost thaw including at the Takhini River thaw slump near the Alaska Highway. The work was completed in partnership with Government of Yukon Highways and Public Works with funding from BMO Financial Group, ArcticNet, and the Government of Canada.
- The Permafrost and Geoscience research group expanded into a new field of expertise by developing new geohazard systems allowing live-time monitoring of critical transportation infrastructure (Alaska Highway and Dempster Highway) impacted by permafrost-thaw related hazards. The group also integrated new approaches for geoscience investigation using airborne Lidar and thermography imagery technology.
- With Vice-Provost Bronwyn Hancock as the coordinating lead author, the Climate Change Research group developed the Northern Canada chapter of Natural Resources Canada's Canada in a Changing Climate report.
- Furthering and promoting our understanding of northern hydrology, YukonU climate change researchers presented two posters and a paper to academic peers at conferences, published two papers in Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering, and published six blog posts for the public. They installed a real-time hydrometric station on Engineer Creek with Government of Yukon partners and conducted a winter field campaign to monitor hydrological processes along Yukon highways.

3 Continue to develop our northern expertise

Commitments

- Work in partnership with governments, industry and other post-secondary institutions to respond to emergent needs of the North.
- Strengthen existing and build new areas of research focus aligned with Northern priorities.
- Uphold the distinct cultural identities of the North and support their enduring contribution.
- Present our place in the North as a unique attractor to the programs and opportunities that we offer.
- Influence and inform conversations related to issues of Northern relevance and national concern.



2023-24 accomplishments

- In 2022-23 (June 2023 convocation), Yukon University graduated **219 students**, including 40 Indigenous graduates. The graduating class comprised 122 certificate recipients, 59 diploma recipients and 38 degree recipients. Eight graduates received a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Governance.
- Enrolment in trades programs was at an all-time high in both pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.
- In collaboration with the Yukon First Nations Education Directorate, the Try-a-Trade program reached 60 elementary students from Whitehorse and Ross River schools, and about 550 Whitehorse high schoolers.
- YukonU hosted the 25th annual Skills Canada Competition at the Ayamdigut Campus. Two apprenticeship students, welder Vincent Kaiser and carpenter Jonathan Filmore, went on to compete in the National Skills Competition in Winnipeg.
- YukonU acquired a driver training simulator with funds from Government of Yukon. Employment and Social Development Canada provided financial support to deliver the Targeted Occupations, Programs and Supports Project which included simulated heavy equipment operation, commercial driving and readiness for employment and living program training.
- Faculty integrated land-based learning opportunities into course delivery for many programs. Highlights include:
 - The Indigenous Land-Based Education course (ELBP 215/225) where Education (YNTEP) and Yukon Native Language Centre students learned from culture bearers and Elders about long-ago tools, histories, and foods.
 - A ten-day Northern Exposures field course (RENR 465) that hosted 20 University of Alberta students through our partnered degree program.
 - Quest & ReQuest, a week-long orientation for the 21 new students in the Business Administration program, connected them with community and Indigenous Elders. Activities included building wall tents, making fire, hiking, visiting Carcross, and canoeing the Yukon River.
 - YNTEP and Bachelor of Social Work Programs offered land-based activities to engage with Yukon First Nations.
 - Bachelor of Business Administration faculty and students participated in a "fireside chat" with the Governor of the Bank of Canada, Tiff Macklem.
 - Ketz Construction was the winning bid in the tender

- process for the construction management contract to facilitate the construction phase of the Polaris project. This contract is expected to be finalized in the 24/25 fiscal year. The Government of Yukon has included \$11-13M in capital contributions as part of their 5 year capital plan towards the new science building. The building will contain four classrooms and a lecture hall, research labs, a room for ceremony, and a large social space for events and gatherings.
- Renovations and upgrades to student housing dorm rooms and shared spaces improved the student living experience.

Library by the numbers

The library has enriched its collection by adding 203 print books and 350 ebooks to their holdings, which now has a total of over 24,000 print books and 222,000 ebooks.

Library users performed almost 140,000 searches on the library catalogue, and almost 19,000 searches on library database platforms.

To support and improve information literacy, 35 library information sessions for students and faculty were conducted, both in-class and online, and access to online resources through LibGuides increased by 21% compared to the previous year, reaching a total of over 10,000 views.

4

Develop bold thinkers and confident change leaders

Commitments

- Grow student enrolment and improve retention.
- Expand experiential and community-based learning for students.
- Enhance opportunities for unique land-based teaching and learning.
- Provide students with opportunities to engage in knowledge creation, critical dialogue, reason and debate.
- Improve infrastructure and learning spaces to create inclusive places for students to connect, create, discover and share ideas.



Semi passive treatment to remove Nitrate in cold climate at Minto Mine (Taylor Belansky's Master's Project.)

Photo: Guillaume Nilsen

Be leaders for the common good

YukonU.ca

2023-24 accomplishments

- The President's task force on equity, diversity, and inclusion advanced a statement of commitment. The task force reviewed a draft action plan. Staff engagement on EDI continued through the year.
- In June 2023 the collective agreement between Yukon University and The Public Service Alliance of Canada was ratified. Article 26 introduced Faculty Title and Rank. From Instructor through to Professor, each level now comes with criteria for achieving rank consistent with traditional university structure and definitions. The bargaining teams also inserted language to recognize Traditional Knowledge as an avenue into the faculty ranks, which is distinct from the traditional university rank definitions. A faculty member who self-identifies as Indigenous and is recognized within their respective community as a traditional knowledge holder but does not hold a master's or doctoral degree may be appointed to the title of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor or Professor. A self-identified Indigenous faculty member may elect to add an equivalent Indigenous title to their appointed rank.
- YukonU hosted a Wellness Week in November 2023. Daily wellness and activities ranged from a sound journey workshop, Zumba class, and expressive art workshop to a workshop on preventing burnout and developing resiliency. Additionally, we held two reconciliation cafés and a workshop on traditional medicine, a naloxone training workshop, a Diwali celebration, a student's vs staff soccer game, and a community fair.
- There were 17 deliveries of Yukon First Nations 101 with 323 registrations and 279 completions.
- YukonU's Outreach Climatologist worked with 15 Whitehorse school educators to provide learning opportunities on climate change to over 100 students in four Whitehorse schools and co-organized a youth climate workshop with Yukon Government and the Yukon Mental Health Association.
- YukonU leadership provided advice and furthered discussion as a member of Yukon Government Health Human Resources Steering Committee and engaged with governments and healthcare officials to determine critical educational requirements in the social work field.
- The Northern Institute of Social Justice delivered 75 courses and webinars with 1,270 course registrations and 1,116 completions.
- Other Northern Institute of Social Justice delivery highlights include:
 - Residential School Awareness for the Public Service Commission; worked with First Nations Initiatives to deliver YFN History and Cultures for the RCMP.
 - Variations on Regulatory Enforcement Compliance Training to Tr'ondek Hwech'in Land Guardians; Kwanlin Dun First Nation Community Safety Officers; and Government of Yukon departments.
 - Adapted Understanding Legislation for delivery to Carcross/Tagish First Nation.
 - Worked with the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society to deliver updated Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder-Informed Support to the public.
 - Worked with Hospice Yukon to deliver Grief and Frontline Professions; Loss in the Workplace (for managers); and Caregiving Through Loss and Grief.
 - Developed and piloted a webinar series about Intimate Partner Violence; and a series about Gender-Based Violence.

5 Be leaders for the common good

Commitments

- Work to dismantle systemic racism, oppression and inequity through truth seeking and truth informed actions.
- Recognize the climate crisis by aligning institutional decisions with Territorial and Federal objectives for emission reduction, clean growth, and climate resilience.
- Provide learning opportunities that address social and environmental justice.
- Design new physical infrastructure to aspire to achieve net zero status.
- Promote a culture of healthy living, and holistic well-being across Canada.

Application data

The numbers reported in this section look back at the 2022–23 academic year which finished in the 2023–24 fiscal year (September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023), and Fall 2023–24 (September 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023).

Academic year data

Total applications, acceptances for admission, and yield rate (Sept 1, 2022 to Aug 31, 2023)

We received 1,115 applications for Yukon University programs in academic year 2022–23, of which 582 (or 52%) were accepted for admission. In total, 489 accepted students registered in their courses for a yield ratio of 84% of acceptances and 44% of all applications.

Academic year	Applications	Acceptances		New registered students		
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	% of accepted	% of applied
2022–23	1115	582	52%	489	84%	44%
2021–22	1460	846	58%	666	79%	46%
2020–21	1293	769	59%	564	73%	44%

Indigenous applications, acceptances for admission, and yield rate (Sept 1, 2022 to Aug 31, 2023)

Indigenous applicants accounted for 29% of applications in 2022–23. This group had an acceptance rate of 62%. The yield ratio of newly registered students in this group was 83% of acceptances and 52% of applications.

Academic year	Applications	Acceptances		New registered students		
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	% of accepted	% of applied
2022–23	326	203	62%	168	83%	52%
2021–22	444	274	62%	201	73%	45%
2020–21	408	242	59%	170	70%	42%

Direct entrants from Yukon high schools: applications, acceptances for admission, and yield rate (Sept 1, 2022 to Aug 31, 2023)

Direct entrants from Yukon high schools accounted for 10% of applications in 2022–23. This group had an acceptance rate of 70%. The yield ratio of newly registered students in this group was 88% of acceptances and 61% of applications.

Academic year	Applications	Acceptances		New registered students		
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	% of accepted	% of applied
2022–23	116	81	70%	71	88%	61%
2021–22	97	72	74%	56	78%	58%
2020–21	74	64	86%	44	69%	59%

Fall 2023 Totals

(Sept 1 to Dec 31, 2023)

We received 841 applications for Yukon University programs in Fall 2023, of which 438 (or 52%) were accepted for admission. A total of 352 accepted students registered in their courses for a yield ratio of 80% of acceptances, or 42% of all admissions. Indigenous applicants accounted for 28% of applications in Fall 2023. Direct entrants from Yukon high schools accounted for 10% of applications in Fall 2023.

Semester	Applications	Acceptances		New registered students		
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	% of accepted	% of applied
Fall 2023	841	438	52%	352	80%	42%
Fall 2022	841	436	52%	359	82%	43%
Fall 2021	1095	612	56%	484	79%	44%

Enrolment data

The fiscal year ends March 31 while the academic year ends August 31. Spring data is not fully verified until the fall. The data in this section spans September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023; separate data is presented for Fall 2023.

Academic year data

New and returning credit students: full and part-time student headcount by program area (Sept 1, 2022 to Aug 31, 2023)

In the academic year 2022–23, Yukon University had 744 full-time and 518 part-time students enrolled in credited programming for a total of 1,262 students.

Program cluster ¹	2022–2023			2021–22		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
University transfer	179	66	245	282	80	362
Degree and post-graduate programs	161	49	210	139	34	173
Career and technical	148	60	208	148	52	200
Pre-apprentice Trades	47	7	54	38	9	47
Apprenticeship Trades ²	102	0	102	100	0	100
Academic and skill development	102	28	130	105	50	155
Open studies	5	308	313	8	350	358
Total credit programming	744	518	1262	720	575	1295

Fall 2023 totals

New and returning credit students: full and part-time student headcount by program area (Sept 1, 2023 to Dec 31, 2023)

In Fall 2023, Yukon University had 510 full-time and 306 part-time students enrolled in credited programming for a total of 816 students.

Program cluster ¹	Fall 2023			Fall 2022		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
University transfer	140	53	193	182	66	248
Degree and post-graduate programs	136	24	160	107	30	137
Career and technical	122	46	168	125	57	182
Pre-apprentice trades	30	1	31	24	0	24
Apprenticeship trades ²	34	0	34	29	0	29
Academic and skill development	48	18	66	66	18	84
Open studies	0	164	164	0	167	167
Total credit programming	510	306	816	504	338	842

1. Note: Program clusters do not necessarily reflect the organizational structure of Yukon University.
2. Apprenticeship trades have been added to credit headcount as of 2022–23. This is a change in procedure from previous years, when these enrollments were not counted as part of credit headcount. For reference, the previous three Fall apprenticeship enrollments are: Fall 2022: 30, Fall 2021: 29, Fall 2020: 23. Apprenticeship students are counted as full-time.

Continuing Studies enrolment

In calendar year 2023, Yukon University had 3,474 students enrolled in non-credit programming (down 1% from 3,512 in calendar year 2022). As some students enroll in multiple courses, there were 4,621 course registrations in non-credit courses in calendar year 2023, down 4% from 4,832 in calendar year 2022. Note that last year's numbers have been adjusted to reflect the re-allocation of apprenticeship headcounts and registrations from non-credit to credit enrollment.

International student enrolment

In 2022–23 (Sept 1, 2022 to Aug 31, 2023), a total of 151 International students were enrolled. This was down 10% from 168 in 2021–22. In Fall 2023, a total of 115 International students were enrolled, up 10% from 105 in Fall 2022.

Student demographics

Academic year data

Demographic characteristics of credit students
(Sept 1, 2022 to Aug 31, 2023)

Indigenous data is based on self-identification and funder information, and should therefore be taken as a minimum percentage.

Demographic	2022-23			2021-22		
	Full-time	Part-time	All credit	Full-time	Part-time	All credit
Female	62%	57%	60%	63%	57%	60%
Male	35%	28%	32%	33%	26%	26%
Non-binary or unspecified	3%	15%	9%	4%	17%	14%
Indigenous	31%	20%	26%	28%	24%	26%
Average age	28.0	30.2	29.0	27.8	30.7	29.1
Median age	25	27	26	25	28	26

Student outcomes

Academic year data

(Sept 1, 2022 to Aug 31, 2023)

Yukon University students earned 122 certificates, 59 diplomas, and 38 degrees for the academic year ending August 2023.

Program cluster	2022-23				2021-22			
	Certificates	Diplomas	Degrees	Total	Certificates	Diplomas	Degrees	Total
University level	57	36	38	131	53	39	33	125
Career and technical	49	23	0	72	62	18	0	80
Trades	16	0	0	16	18	0	0	18
Academic and skill development	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	8
Total	122	59	38	219	140	58	33	231

Community campus students

In academic year 2022-23
(Sept 1, 2022 to Aug 31, 2023):

Credit courses

84

students took credit courses at one of Yukon University's 12 community campuses, down 24% from 110 in 2021-22.

* These numbers include blended and hyflex learning, where online and classroom delivery are combined within a course.

847

students took Yukon University credit courses that were offered in an online format in academic year 2022-23, down 22% from 1,085 in 2021-22.

In calendar year 2023:

Continuing studies

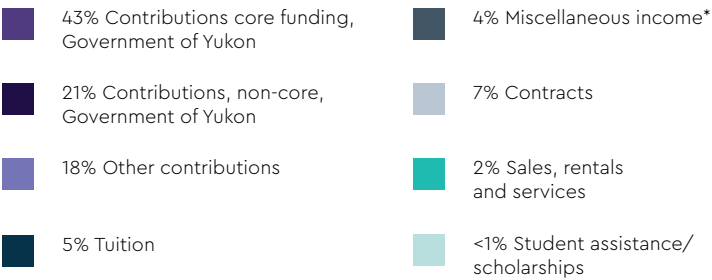
1224

students took non-credit courses at one of the 12 community campuses, up 8% from 1,135 in calendar year 2022.

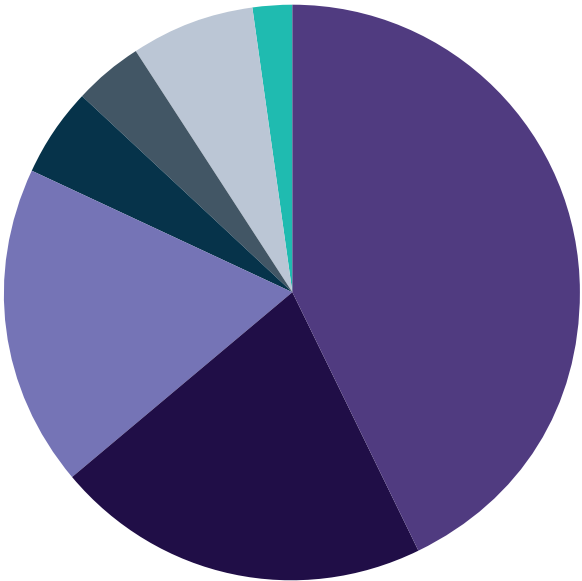
Consolidated financial results

These charts reflect the consolidated financial results of Yukon University and Yukon University Foundation.

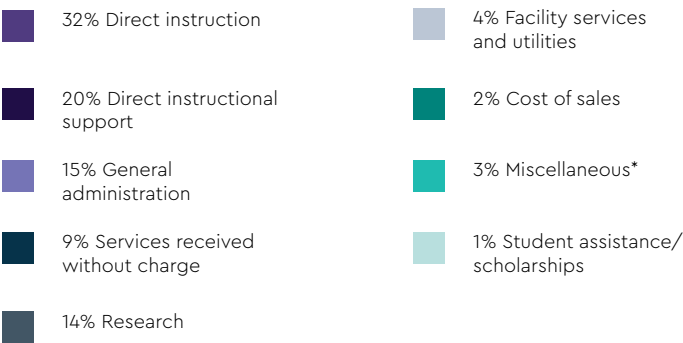
Revenues 2023-24



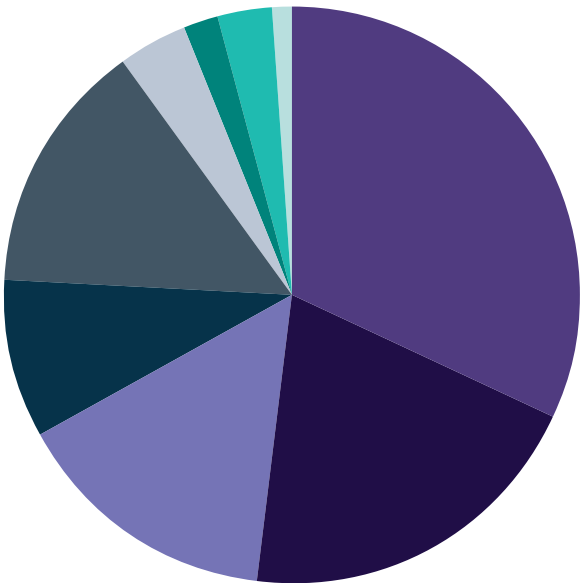
* Miscellaneous income includes amortization of deferred capital contributions and interest income.



Expenses 2023-24



* Miscellaneous includes amortization of capital assets.



As of March 31, 2024, there were **741 employees** that include:

345 term or regular staff

396 casual, contract and student staff

Summary of consolidated financial results

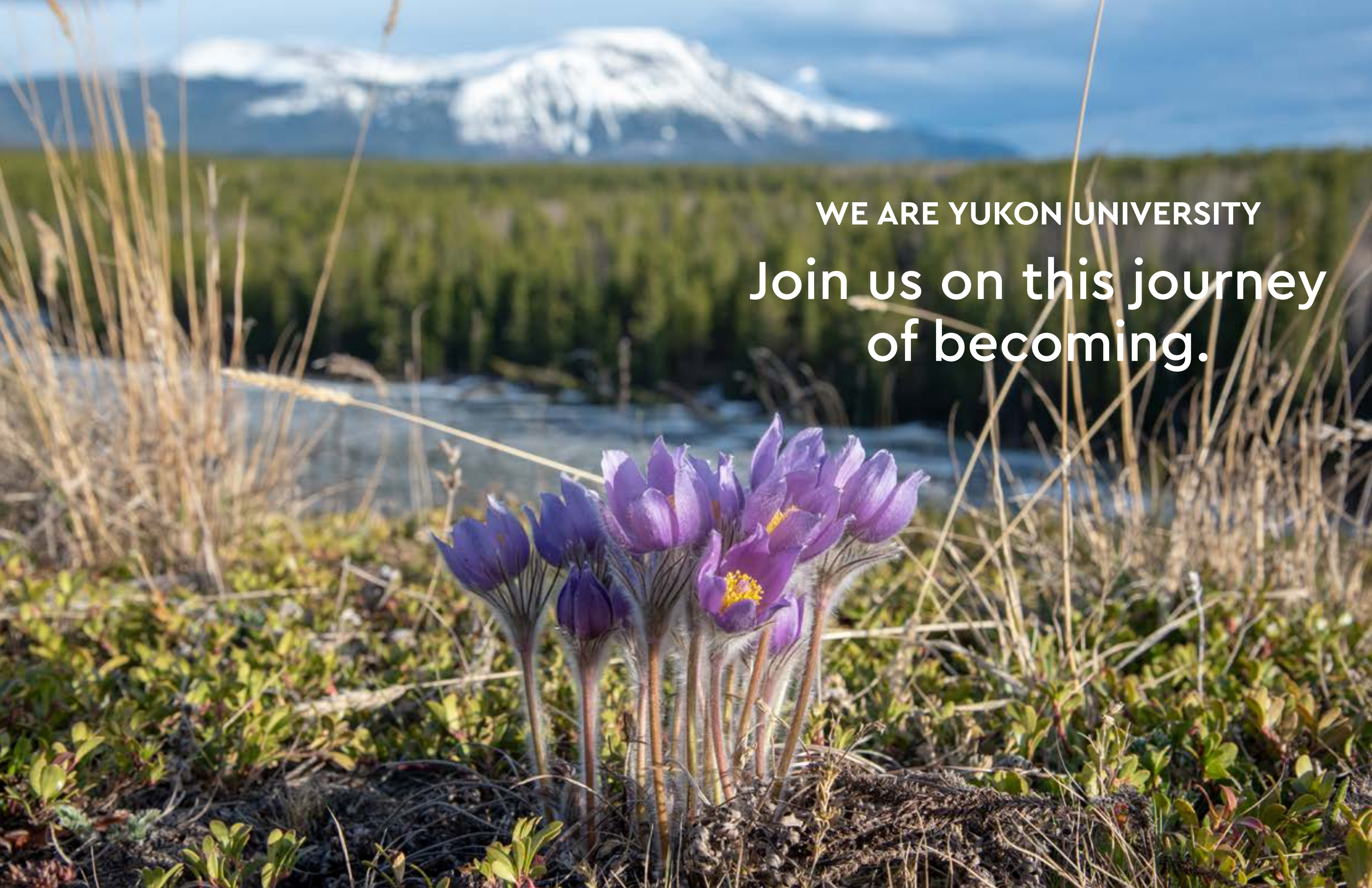
These are the consolidated financial results of Yukon University and Yukon University Foundation. A copy of the full financial statements, including the audit opinion, is available at [YukonU.ca/about-us/publications-plans-reports](https://yukonu.ca/about-us/publications-plans-reports).

Revenues	March 31, 2024	March 31, 2023
Contributions Core Funding, Government of Yukon	26,488,745	24,526,772
Contributions,Non-Core, Government of Yukon	12,880,171	15,541,116
Other contributions	10,989,216	9,659,569
Tuition	2,860,142	2,560,517
Miscellaneous income	2,811,241	2,077,937
Contracts	4,330,677	3,304,699
Sales, rentals, and services	1,432,615	1,336,273
Student assistance/ scholarships	259,577	171,651
	62,052,384	59,178,534

Expenses	March 31, 2024	March 31, 2023
Direct instruction	18,374,335	15,662,540
Direct instructional support	11,551,335	10,951,633
General administration	8,506,111	7,176,500
Services received without charge	5,222,276	7,108,904
Research	8,278,265	6,608,607
Facility services and utilities	2,444,984	1,859,879
Cost of sales	1,370,589	1,203,726
Miscellaneous	1,486,103	1,246,658
Student assistance/scholarships	259,577	150,967
	57,493,575	51,969,414
Excess of revenues over expenses	4,558,809	7,209,120

Changes in net assets	March 31, 2024	March 31, 2023
Total surplus of revenues over expenses	4,558,809	7,209,120
Endowment contributions	865	4,816
Remeasurement gains/(losses)	120,353	(236,368)
Net gain on investments	304,644	67,389
Net assets, beginning year	37,827,899	30,782,942
Transfer (to)/from deferred liabilities	234,389	-
Net assets, end of year	43,046,959	37,827,899

Net assets	March 31, 2024	March 31, 2023
Invested in capital assets	3,918,390	3,922,399
Externally restricted endowments	5,117,345	4,327,447
Internally restricted pension	33,902,900	29,618,400
Internally restricted capital assets	1,801,183	1,738,076
Unrestricted	(1,542,726)	(1,507,937)
	43,197,092	38,098,385
Accumulated remeasurement gains/(losses)	(150,133)	(270,486)
Total net assets	43,046,959	37,827,899



WE ARE YUKON UNIVERSITY
Join us on this journey
of becoming.



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Old Crow | Pelly Crossing | Ross River | Teslin | Watson Lake | Whitehorse