



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

Council Agenda

Monday, August 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome to the

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Council Chamber, City Hall

4807 - 52nd Street

Yellowknife

All presentations pertaining to items on the Agenda for the meeting shall be heard under the “Delegations Pertaining to Items on the Agenda,” portion of the Order of Business. All presentations pertaining to items not on the Agenda shall be heard under the “Delegations Pertaining to Items Not on the Agenda” portion of the Order of Business.

The following procedures apply to all delegations before Council:

- a. all delegations shall address their remarks directly to the Presiding Officer and shall not pose questions to individual Members or Administration;
- b. each presenter shall be afforded five minutes to make their presentation;
- c. the time allowed to each presenter may be extended beyond five minutes by a resolution of Council;
- d. after a person has spoken, any Member may, through the Presiding Officer, ask that person or the City Administrator relevant questions; and
- e. no debate shall be permitted on any delegation to Council either between Members or with an individual making a presentation.

Please refer to By-law No. 4975, the Council Procedures By-law, for the rules respecting the procedures of Council.

COUNCIL:

Mayor Ben Hendriksen

Councillor Stacie Arden-Smith

Councillor Garrett Cochrane

Councillor Ryan Fequet

Councillor Rob Foote

Councillor Cat McGurk

Councillor Tom McLennan

Councillor Steve Payne

Councillor Rob Warburton

All annexes to this agenda may be viewed on the City’s website www.yellowknife.ca or by contacting the City Clerk’s Office at 920-5602.

Item No. **Description**

OPENING STATEMENT

- 1. Councillor Warburton will read the Opening Statement.

The City of Yellowknife acknowledges that we are located in Chief Drygeese territory. From time immemorial, it has been the traditional land of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of all other Indigenous Peoples including the North Slave Métis, and all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

AWARDS, CEREMONIES AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2. There were no awards, ceremonies or presentations for the agenda.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

Previously
Distributed

- 3. Minutes of Council for the special meeting of Monday, July 28, 2025 are presented for adoption.

- 4. Councillor Warburton moves,
Councillor _____ seconds,

That Minutes of Council for the special meeting of Monday, July 28, 2025 be presented for adoption.

Unanimous	In Favour	Opposed	Carried / Defeated
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Previously
Distributed

- 5. Minutes of Council for the regular meeting of Monday, July 28, 2025 are presented for adoption.

- 6. Councillor Warburton moves,
Councillor _____ seconds,

That Minutes of Council for the regular meeting of Monday, July 28, 2025 be presented for adoption.

Unanimous	In Favour	Opposed	Carried / Defeated
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DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

Item No.

Description

7. Does any Member have a conflict of interest in any matter before Council today?

CORRESPONDENCE & PETITIONS

8. There was no correspondence nor were there any petitions for the agenda.

STATUTORY PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. There were no Statutory Public Hearings for the agenda.

DELEGATIONS PERTAINING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

10. Public presentations regarding the 2026 Budget:
1. A presentation from Mary Buckland, a representative from the NWT Art Centre, to allocate funds for a City of Yellowknife Artist-in-Residence program.
 2. A presentation from Laura Stott, a representative from the Territorial Action Sports Association, regarding their proposal for the conversion of the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool into a year-round indoor skate park.
 3. A presentation from Nancy Vail, regarding a new dog park.
 4. A presentation from Adam Denley regarding 2026 Budget proposals.
 5. A presentation from Becca Denley regarding 2026 Budget proposals.

MEMBER STATEMENTS

11. There were no statements for the agenda.
12. Are there any Member statements from the floor?

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor Warburton will introduce the following reports:

13. Governance and Priorities Committee Report for July 28, 2025.
14. Councillor Warburton moves,
Councillor _____ seconds,

That Council authorize Administration to end Amnesty Days at the Solid Waste Facility.

Unanimous	In Favour	Opposed	Carried / Defeated
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Item No.

Description

NEW BUSINESS

- 15. There was no new business for the agenda.
- 16. Is there any new business from the floor?

ENACTMENT OF BY-LAWS

- 17. There was no by-laws for the agenda.

DEFERRED BUSINESS AND TABLED ITEMS

- 18. There was no deferred business and there were no tabled items for the agenda.
- 19. Is there any deferred business or are there any tabled items from the floor?

OLD BUSINESS

- 20. There was no old business for the agenda.
- 21. Is there any old business from the floor?

NOTICES OF MOTION

- 22. There were no notices of motion for the agenda.
- 23. Are there any notices of motion from the floor?

DELEGATIONS PERTAINING TO ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- 24. There were no delegations pertaining to items not on the agenda.

ADMINISTRATIVE ENQUIRIES

- 25. There were no administrative enquiries for the agenda.
- 26. Are there any administrative enquiries from the floor?

ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Monday, July 28, 2025 at 12:05 p.m.

Report of a meeting held on Monday, July 28 2025 at 12:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: A/Mayor R. Fequet,
 Mayor B. Hendriksen, (via teleconference)
 Councillor S. Arden-Smith,
 Councillor G. Cochrane,
 Councillor R. Foote,
 Councillor C. McGurk,
 Councillor T. McLennan,
 Councillor S. Payne, and ,(via teleconference)
 Councillor R. Warburton. (via teleconference)

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

S. Van Dine,
 C. Caljouw,
 C. Greencorn,
 S. Jovic,
 C. MacLean,
 M. Malik,
 T. Setta,
 K. Thistle,
 G. White, and
 B. Ly.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
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| 1. | (For Information Only)
Councillor McLennan read the Opening Statement at the Special Council Meeting. |
| 2. | (For Information Only)
There were no disclosures of conflict of interest. |

3. **Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to cancel Amnesty Days at the Solid Waste Facility or to transition to a voucher system.**

Committee noted that the City of Yellowknife's Solid Waste Facility (SWF) has hosted Amnesty Days in its current format since 2005. Amnesty Days are held to offer residents an opportunity to dispose of household waste free of charge. Surcharge items (as written in Fees and Charges By-law No. 4436, as amended) are still charged the associated surcharge fee, but the residential light waste load fee (\$16.50 in 2025) is waived.

Historically, Amnesty Days served as a convenient way for residents to dispose of additional household waste that accumulated throughout the year. As the SWF continues to assess its operational priorities and its ability to meet expected levels of service, decisions need to be made that are in line with effective waste and cost management. Note that the SWF coordinates the following waste diversion programs for the public:

- Blue Bin Recycling Collection
- Leaf & Yard Waste
- Source Separated Organics Processing
- Concrete/Asphalt Recycling
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Scrap Metal
- Tire Shredding
- Clean Wood
- Honey Buckets

Where the above programs support the City's diversion goals by targeting specific materials and waiving or subsidizing associated fees to incentivize the public, Amnesty Day does not align with diversion efforts that are set forth in the adopted Strategic Waste Management Plan. Amnesty Day instead does the opposite by contributing to the devaluation of the landfill's airspace and increasing processing challenges.

A decision needs to be made to either cancel Amnesty Days altogether or implement a different system that is safer, less costly and more manageable. The division's preference is to end the event.

If Council chooses not to end Amnesty Days, the SWF has prepared an alternative that will provide the majority of residents with an opportunity to access the service while making it safer, more cost-effective and manageable to staff.

This memorandum outlines:

1. The reasons behind the division's push to cancel Amnesty; and
2. A summary of how an alternative voucher system would work if Amnesty is not cancelled.

Note that the proposed voucher system is ready for implementation.

Council Strategic Direction/Resolution/Policy include:

Strategic Direction #3 Sustainable Future

Key Initiative 3.1.2 Implementing the Solid Waste Management Plan

Applicable legislation, by-laws, studies, plans include:

1. Solid Waste Management By-law No. 4376, as amended;
2. Fees and Charges By-law No. 4436, as amended; and
3. City of Yellowknife Strategic Waste Management Plan Update, 2025.

Spring 2023 Amnesty Day Overall Cost

The Spring 2023 Amnesty Day was held for a total of 7 hours on May 20, 2023 with an overall cost of \$33,483.29. For each hour of Amnesty, it cost the City approximately \$4,783.33. The overall cost takes into consideration administration costs, lost revenue, staffing costs, equipment costs, landfilling costs, and clean up costs – which are summarized in the below considerations.

In addition to the staffing costs noted above, there is also the costs associated with depleting landfill space with no cost recovery. In 2017, the City estimated the cost of landfill space at \$200.00 per tonne. The costs associated with landfilling municipal waste have significantly increased due to regulatory requirements, contracted costs, landfill closure activities, and fire prevention activities. In 2025, Administration estimates that the cost of landfilling has increased to at least \$275 per tonne and the facility is only recovering \$163.00 per tonne. This represents significant undervaluing of one of the City’s most important assets.

Continuing to take waste for free further compounds this deficit which the general tax base must account for.

Safety Concerns

The Solid Waste Facility is a continuous construction site. The safety concerns are a result of the high number of residents attempting to access free disposal and the significant quantity of waste that comes in. Spring 2023 Amnesty Day was held over 7 hours and saw 672 vehicles enter the SWF, an average of 96 vehicles per hour in the Public Drop off Area.

Visit Purpose	Vehicle Count
Salvage	138
Amnesty	534
Total Visit Count	672
Avg Count per Hour (7hr period)	96

SWF personnel directions are often ignored and waste is disposed of where it is unsafe to do so, even with staff supervision in the Public Drop-off Area, as a result of the surplus of vehicles. Operators have to maneuver heavy duty equipment around residents and vehicle traffic to ensure that there is sufficient space for waste to be placed. Operators find resident visibility difficult, and residents are not aware of how to operate a vehicle around heavy equipment, adding more responsibility on the Operator to ensure no accidents occur.

Percentage of Residents Reached

The Spring Amnesty Day had 672 vehicles cross the scale, accounting for a small portion of the City's population. Essentially, despite the optics of long line-ups, this additional level of service is provided only to the benefit of few residents, while the majority of taxpayers opt to pay the \$16.50 fee to dispose of their additional waste.

Staff Requirements

Given that public safety, waste diversion, and regulatory compliance are SWF priorities, Amnesty Days require the majority of SWF staff to supervise the public, and MED officers have been necessary on site to direct traffic flow. Amnesty requires more resources and does not bring in any revenue to compensate. For the following reasons, SWF personnel are required to supervise the public:

- To inspect vehicles for surcharge or hazardous waste items that are concealed with the acceptable waste load for regulatory purposes;
- To decrease the potential of injury or harm of visitors seeking to salvage in prohibited areas;
- To monitor and educate visitors on site safety expectations (no smoking, children supervision);
- To direct visitors to dispose of material in designated areas; and
- To remind visitors that there is heavy duty equipment working on site and to mitigate risk through traffic control.

Regulatory Consideration

When the waste fee is waived, there is no incentive to sort or divert waste, which results in an undervaluing of airspace, increased risk of non-compliance with regulatory expectations and an unsustainable use of the landfill's workers and resource.

Public Reaction

There have been several complaints from the public about Amnesty Days, including but not limited to:

- The length of the line ups;
- Frustration that the City is wasting money supervising people to provide free dumping, which in turn costs taxpayers;
- That commercial vehicles are not included;
- That surcharge items must be paid for regardless of Amnesty; and

- The Spring 2020 Amnesty Event resulted in two articles (CBC & Cabin Radio), numerous complaints on Facebook pages, and attention on a National Radio show (CBC Radio).

Ending Amnesty would be the easiest, least expensive way to address the issues above. Amnesty is not a critical or essential service and steers the division away from dealing with more important services.

New Amnesty Voucher Program

If Council would rather not cancel Amnesty, the SWF is ready to implement a new voucher system to replace Amnesty Days for residents who participate in the Curbside Cart Program. Each voucher would waive the residential fee for one visit to the SWF.

How it works

Residents who participate in the Curbside Cart Program and pay the monthly solid waste levy on their utility bill are eligible to receive two amnesty vouchers per year, which will expire at the end of each calendar year. Each amnesty voucher will waive the residential vehicle charge for one trip to the Solid Waste Facility. Amnesty vouchers can be used at any time during regular public hours.

Household eligibility

- Residents who participate in the Curbside Cart Program and pay the monthly solid waste levy on their utility bill are eligible to receive two amnesty vouchers per year. Vouchers can be accessed online and emailed to the recipient, or they can be issued at the Solid Waste Facility.
- The number of vouchers per household is determined by how many sets of carts each household pays for. For example, a multi-family unit with two sets of approved carts are eligible to receive two sets of vouchers each year (4 vouchers total).
- Residents who do not participate in the Curbside Cart Program are not eligible for amnesty vouchers.

Waste guidelines

- Amnesty vouchers can be used for the disposal of household garbage and anything else that is covered by the standard residential vehicle rate (\$16.50 in 2025).
- Residents can dispose of up to 150 kg of waste per voucher. The gatehouse reserves the right to have a voucher holder weigh in and weight out in order to assess eligibility.
- If the voucher holder's load exceeds 150 kg, both vouchers can be used provided the weight does not exceed 300 kg.
- Commercial entities are not eligible to receive amnesty vouchers. The Solid Waste Facility retains the right to turn away loads that are deemed to be commercial (e.g.: vehicles with c-plates and/or company decals).

- Amnesty vouchers do not cover surcharge items, such as appliances, mattresses, empty barrels, oil or propane tanks, car batteries, electronic devices, or tires. A reminder to residents that many electronic devices can be recycled for free at the Bottle Depot. Appliances, such as a fridge or washing machine, may also be brought to local metal recycling companies. Please refer to the [Fees and Charges](#) page for a full list of surcharge items.
- Vouchers can only be used during regular public hours (Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.).

Benefits

The amnesty voucher system comes with the following benefits:

- Residents can dispose of household waste at their convenience and avoid line ups;
- Staff can better support residents with proper waste sorting and diversion;
- This system promotes a safer site for both residents and staff; and
- Staff can more effectively and efficiently measure and manage waste.

Committee noted that Amnesty Days puts significant pressures on site operations. These pressures result in the inability to process waste effectively, serious safety concerns, and frustrations from both staff and the public. No revenue is generated from this activity and so the cost to manage waste is unfairly placed on the taxpaying community as opposed to the individual waste generators. Amnesty is often exploited, with excessive waste coming in and concealed surcharged/hazardous items being smuggled in at no cost to the waste generator. Waiving the fee for household waste diminishes any incentive to properly sort material, which goes against the ongoing work the City is doing to divert waste and optimize airspace utilization. The division strongly recommends cancelling the event.

Committee recommends that Council authorize Administration to end Amnesty Days at the Solid Waste Facility.

MOVE APPROVAL

(For Information Only)

4. Committee accepted for information a memorandum regarding 2024 Annual Local Spending Report as required by the Local Procurement Policy.

Committee noted that on February 12, 2018, the Council approved Motion #0028-18, which implemented a Local Procurement Policy aimed at encouraging and prioritizing local expenditures by the City of Yellowknife. The policy's goal is to ensure that at least 85% of the City's annual purchases be made by Yellowknife-based businesses, provided that quality and price remain competitive.

Definitions and approach:

I. What is Considered Local?

For this report, a “local company” is defined as one that has a physical presence in Yellowknife, including offices or storefronts, employs local staff, and engages regularly in the local economy.

II. The following approach was used in compiling the local spending report:

a. Local Spending: Total Local spending amount of \$62.82 million in Table 1 excludes the expenses related to payroll benefits, debt repayments and tax disbursements, since this report focuses on discretionary spending processed through the City’s accounts payable system. These excluded amounts are detailed in Table 2.

b. Non-local spending: A total amount of \$10.45 million in Table 1 includes those goods and services that were not available within Yellowknife. These expenditures involve items such as specialized vehicles and equipment, software services, traffic light systems, aquatic and rink maintenance, recruitment expenses, and consulting services. These non-local expenditures also include many requests for goods and services which were posted as competitive bids (tenders or requests for proposals) open to the public, but for which the City did not receive successful bids from local suppliers. These items are summarized in Table 3.

Executive Summary:

This report presents the City of Yellowknife’s 2024 local and non-local spending activity in accordance with the Local Procurement Policy, which sets a target of 85% local expenditure annually.

For the calendar year 2024, the City achieved 86% local spending rate for discretionary spending. Below is the summary of the results, given in more details in Sections A and B of this report.

- **Total Spending:** \$73.28 million
- **Local Spending:** \$62.83 million (**86%**)
- **Non-Local Spending:** \$10.45 million (**14%**)
- **Spending adjusted for non-discretionary costs:** If the analysis is adjusted for payroll and other non-discretionary costs and for those goods and services non-available locally, the local spending rises to **94% (Table 4)**

APPENDIX A: provides a summary of 2024 contracts administered by the Procurement and Supply Services Division, outlining the procurement methods used, contractor details, contract values, and nature of the goods or services acquired.

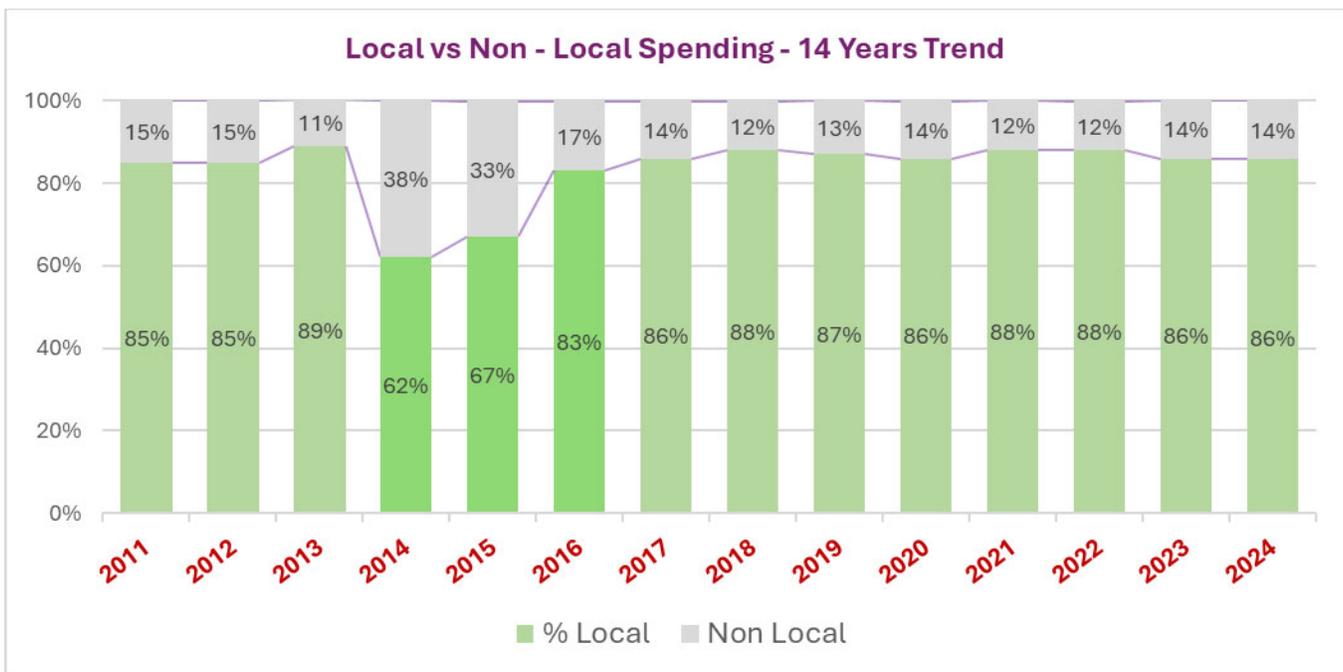
In 2024, the City awarded approximately \$21.5 million in contracts, with \$17.4 million going to Yellowknife-based businesses - amounting to 81% of total contract value. The remaining

\$4.0 million was awarded to non-local suppliers, largely for specialized consulting and equipment not available locally. However, the total spending includes these new contracts as well as existing contracts at the start of the year.

SECTION A

Table 1: Historical Trend Analysis:

Year	Local	Non-local**	Total	Excluded from Local* (Table 2)	% Local
2011	\$ 36,825,604	\$ 6,469,733	\$ 43,295,337	\$ 16,567,844	85%
2012	\$ 43,706,457	\$ 7,767,149	\$ 51,473,606	\$ 13,290,922	85%
2013	\$ 42,684,472	\$ 5,464,015	\$ 48,148,487	\$ 18,673,513	89%
2014	\$ 49,207,823	\$ 30,365,195	\$ 79,573,018	\$ 17,563,875	62%
2015	\$ 29,194,215	\$ 14,178,374	\$ 43,372,590	\$ 19,844,107	67%
2016	\$ 35,399,838	\$ 7,083,328	\$ 42,483,166	\$ 21,572,942	83%
2017	\$ 44,628,494	\$ 7,191,647	\$ 51,820,141	\$ 18,320,555	86%
2018	\$ 39,200,230	\$ 5,168,196	\$ 44,368,426	\$ 18,347,650	88%
2019	\$ 33,725,116	\$ 5,009,772	\$ 38,734,888	\$ 19,340,813	87%
2020	\$ 34,286,543	\$ 5,501,894	\$ 39,788,437	\$ 19,844,599	86%
2021	\$ 34,627,815	\$ 4,769,375	\$ 39,397,189	\$ 19,832,793	88%
2022	\$ 44,899,619	\$ 6,018,691	\$ 50,918,310	\$ 20,085,430	88%
2023	\$ 59,529,555	\$ 9,745,535	\$ 69,275,090	\$ 17,807,172	86%
2024	\$ 62,826,248*	\$ 10,450,287**	\$ 73,276,535	\$ 21,994,842*	86%
Total	\$ 590,742,029	\$ 125,183,191	\$ 715,925,220	\$ 263,087,057	83%



Over the past 14 years, the City has spent more than \$715.9 million, of which approximately \$590.7 million was spent locally, yielding an average local spending rate of 83%. Notably, from 2014 to 2016, the City fell short of its 85% local spending goal. This was largely due to significant payments made to a non-local contractor during the Water Treatment Plant project.

*** 2024 Excluded Items:**

As detailed earlier, certain non-discretionary expenditures have been excluded from the local spending analysis. These are summarized in below. In total, \$21.99 million in payroll and other non-discretionary costs were excluded from analysis in Table 1.

Table 2 - Excluded items (spent locally but non-discretionary in nature)

Payer	Description	Amount
WSSC	Payroll-Workers compensation	\$ 599,386
NEBS Group Insurance	Payroll-Employee Benefits - Insurance	\$ 1,607,592
Manulife	Payroll-Employee Benefits - Pension	\$ 37,538
PSAC Social Justice Fund	Payroll-Contributions to PSAC	\$ 2,596
NEBS Pension Fund	Payroll-Employee Benefits - Pension	\$ 4,081,386
Total Payroll expenses		\$ 6,328,497
Others		
YK Sep. Education Dist.	Payment of School tax collected	\$ 4,648,653
TD Canada Trust	Banking services and charges	\$ 4,021,377
YK Education District 1	Payment of School tax collected	\$ 6,996,314
Total Others		\$ 15,666,344
*Grand Total		\$ 21,994,842

****2024 Spending on Non-Local, Unavailable Goods and Services:**

In 2024, the City spent \$10.45 million on goods and services from non-local vendors. This represented 14% of total expenditures in 2024. Out of this total \$10.45 million a total of \$5.5 million was spent on the items/services which were **not available** locally. See Table 3 below:

Table 3 - Non-Local (not available locally)

Description	Amount
Chemicals	\$ 137,540
Firefighting equipment	\$ 30,212
IT Services & Software	\$ 1,577,562
Facilities maintenance	\$ 172,262
Specialized Equipment	\$ 678,599
Specialized Services	\$ 2,102,591
Wildfire Support	\$ 807,648
Total	\$ 5,506,414

SECTION B

Analysis considering non-discretionary expenses:

Had the non-discretionary items payroll and other expenses in Table 2 above (spent locally) been included and items not locally available in Table 3 are excluded from total spending, the City’s adjusted local spending rate would have been 94%.

Table 4: Adjusted Local Spending rate:

Local Spending		Non- Local	Total	% Local
Local Spending per Table 1	Non-discretionary costs per Table 2	Total Non-local spending excluding items per Table 3	Spending	
\$ 62,826,248	\$ 21,994,842	\$ 4,943,872	\$ 89,764,963	94%

Conclusion:

The City has demonstrated consistent success in meeting its local procurement policy objectives, supporting Council’s initiative of economic resilience and community development.

Council Strategic Direction/Resolution/Policy include:

Strategic Direction #3:

Sustainable Future

Focus Area 3.1

Resilient Future

Enhancing Yellowknife as a great place to live, visit, work and play now and into the future.

Focus Area 3.3

Robust Economy

Doing our part to stimulate and amplify economic development opportunities

Key Initiative 3.3.3

Aligning with regional and territorial economic opportunities

Council Motion: #0028-18

Mandates that the City aim to spend at least 85% of its annual expenditures with local suppliers.

Applicable legislation, by-laws, studies, plans include:

Local Procurement Policy

Committee noted that the City of Yellowknife is not permitted to apply the GNWT’s Business Incentive Policy, which adjusts bid prices to favor local suppliers. This exclusion, preserved through the Agreement on Internal Trade and carried into the Canada Free Trade Agreement, limits the City’s ability to formally favor local bids. There are legal risks under

common law when applying local preference policies, particularly as procurement value increases.

(For Information Only)

5. Councillor McGurk moved,
Councillor Arden – Smith seconded,

That Committee move in camera at 1:08 p.m. to discuss a land matter.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(For Information Only)

6. Committee discussed a land matter.

(For Information Only)

7. Councillor Cochrane moved,
Councillor McGurk seconded,

That Committee return to an open meeting at 1:48 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(For Information Only)

8. Councilor Arden Smith left the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

(For Information Only)

9. There was no business arising from the in camera session.

10. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.