



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Special Council

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.**

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Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Yellowknife will hold a special meeting of Council at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider whether to authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Yellowknife, the City of Whitehorse, and the City of Iqaluit regarding arctic security and NORAD/CAF/DND investments in northern municipalities.

This Special Meeting has been called by the City Manager of the City of Yellowknife pursuant to Section 27 of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* of the Northwest Territories and Section 9 of By-law No. 5119, the Council Procedures By-law.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

<Original Signed by the City Manager>

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Stephen Van Dine  
City Manager



## CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

DATE: February 12, 2026

File: 260-P2

TO: Stephen Van Dine  
City Manager

FROM: Ben Hendriksen  
Mayor

RE: Special Council Meeting

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Pursuant to Section 9 of the Council Procedures By-law, I hereby request that you schedule a Special Council Meeting on February 18, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider whether to authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Yellowknife, the City of Whitehorse, and the City of Iqaluit regarding arctic security and NORAD/CAF/DND investments in northern municipalities.

Thank you,

<Original Signed by the Mayor>

Ben Hendriksen  
Mayor

cc. City Council  
Office of the City Clerk  
Senior Management Committee



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

## **Council Agenda**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.**

**Welcome to the**

### **SPECIAL 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. 5119, the Council Procedures By-law, for the rules respecting the procedures of Council.

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#### **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 <a href="http://www.yellowknife.ca">www.yellowknife.ca</a> or by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 920-5602.
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**Item No.**

**Description**

**OPENING STATEMENT**

1. Councillor McGurk 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.**

**DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

3. A memorandum regarding whether to authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Yellowknife, the City of Whitehorse, and the City of Iqaluit regarding arctic security and NORAD/CAF/DND Investments in northern municipalities.

4. Councillor McGurk moves,  
Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ seconds,

**That Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Yellowknife, the City of Whitehorse, and the City of Iqaluit regarding arctic security and NORAD/CAF/DND investments in northern municipalities.**

Unanimous	In Favour	Opposed	Carried / Defeated
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**ADJOURNMENT**



## CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

### MEMORANDUM TO COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE:** Council

**DATE:** February 18, 2026

**DEPARTMENT:** Economic Opportunities and Investment

**ISSUE:** Whether to authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Yellowknife, the City of Whitehorse, and the City of Iqaluit regarding arctic security and NORAD/CAF/DND Investments in northern municipalities.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Yellowknife, the City of Whitehorse, and the City of Iqaluit regarding arctic security and NORAD/CAF/DND investments in northern municipalities.

#### BACKGROUND:

As Canada advances defence modernization initiatives in the North, including NORAD modernization, and DND infrastructure upgrades, municipalities are increasingly required to respond to federal operational needs while also ensuring local infrastructure, services, and housing systems remain sustainable and resilient.

Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and Iqaluit share similar pressures and opportunities related to:

- (i) Infrastructure readiness and modernization;
- (ii) Housing demand and workforce needs;
- (iii) Climate resilience and vulnerability of core municipal systems;
- (iv) Municipal participation in Arctic sovereignty and security planning; and
- (v) The need for predictable, long-term federal investments that support both civilian and defence objectives

The proposed MOU formalizes inter-capital collaboration and supports a unified northern municipal voice when engaging with the Government of Canada, Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), NORAD, and other federal and territorial partners.

## COUNCIL STRATEGIC DIRECTION/RESOLUTION/POLICY:

### Strategic Direction #3: Sustainable Future

Focus Area 3.2	<u>Growth Readiness</u> Ensuring land development supports economic readiness and community priorities.
Key Initiative 3.2.4	Sustaining infrastructure capacity for future growth.
Focus Area 3.3	<u>Robust Economy</u> Doing our part to stimulate and amplify economic development opportunities.
Key Initiative 3.3.2	Implementing and renewing strategic economic diversification options.
Key Initiative 3.3.3	Aligning with regional and territorial economic opportunities.

## APPLICABLE LEGISLATION, BY-LAWS, STUDIES, PLANS:

1. Economic Development Strategy 2020-2024; and
2. Economic Development Strategy 2020-2024 Implementation Plan

## CONSIDERATIONS:

### Legislative and Governance

The proposed MOU is non-binding and does not create legal, financial, or regulatory obligations for the City. It does not alter Council authorities or decision-making powers and is consistent with the City's role under territorial and municipal legislation. Any future agreements, funding commitments, or project approvals arising from this collaborative work would be brought forward to Council through established governance processes.

### Financial and Infrastructure

Northern municipalities face a significant and growing infrastructure gap due to aging assets, climate impacts, population pressures, and the high cost of construction and operations. Increased federal defence activity further intensifies demand on municipal systems. The MOU does not impose direct financial costs on the City; rather, it is intended to improve access to predictable federal funding, capacity support, and coordinated investment to address infrastructure deficits and reduce long-term municipal risk.

### Economic Development

Defence and Arctic security investments present opportunities for local employment, business development, workforce training, and long-term economic diversification. The MOU supports a coordinated approach to ensure these investments contribute to community-wide economic benefits, local procurement opportunities, and labour force development, while mitigating unintended cost pressures such as housing and service shortages.

### Indigenous Relations

The MOU acknowledges the importance of Indigenous participation in northern planning and development. Each Party retains responsibility for engaging with relevant Indigenous governments and organizations consistent with territorial protocols and best practices. Coordinated, early-stage municipal involvement in federal planning supports improved alignment with Indigenous priorities, reconciliation efforts, and shared regional outcomes.

### Intergovernmental and Strategic Considerations

A coordinated approach among northern capitals strengthens municipal credibility and influence with federal and territorial partners. It supports earlier engagement, clearer communication, and better alignment between national security objectives and local infrastructure, housing, and service capacity.

### **ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council not authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Yellowknife, the City of Whitehorse, and the City of Iqaluit regarding arctic security and NORAD/CAF/DND Investments in northern municipalities.

### **RATIONALE:**

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) supports Council's strategic priorities related to infrastructure resilience, economic opportunity, intergovernmental collaboration, and positioning Yellowknife as a leading northern capital. As federal attention and investment in Arctic security, NORAD modernization, and CAF/DND operations increase, northern municipalities are facing growing pressures on housing, infrastructure, services, and municipal capacity. The MOU provides a coordinated framework for Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and Iqaluit to collectively advocate for sustained, climate resilient, dual-use infrastructure and for meaningful municipal participation in federal planning and investment decisions.

Authorizing the Mayor to sign the MOU strengthens Yellowknife's ability to influence federal and territorial partners while preserving municipal autonomy and flexibility. The non-binding agreement formalizes collaboration among northern capitals, enhances the credibility of joint advocacy, and improves alignment between defence investments and community needs. Not proceeding would risk reduced influence, fragmented engagement, and missed opportunities to secure capacity funding and infrastructure investments that benefit both national security objectives and local quality of life. The collaborative approach reflected in the MOU is supported by northern municipalities and aligns with the interests of federal, territorial, and Indigenous partners seeking coordinated, effective Arctic planning and development.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Memorandum of Understanding (DM #815552).

Prepared: January 29, 2026; KLT/klt

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

**Between the City of Yellowknife, the City of Whitehorse, and the City of Iqaluit  
Regarding Arctic Security and NORAD/CAF/DND Investments in Northern  
Municipalities**

**Date:** [Insert Date]

**Parties:**

**Mayor,** City of Yellowknife

**Mayor,** City of Whitehorse

**Mayor,** City of Iqaluit

**1. Purpose**

The Cities of Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and Iqaluit share a common interest of strengthening infrastructure resilience, modernizing critical systems, and fostering local capacity to support the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), and the Department of National Defence (DND) in their respective communities.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a collaborative framework for the three capital cities to jointly advocate for strategic and coordinated investment in infrastructure, services, and community resilience to support defence operations while safeguarding the quality of life for northern residents.

**2. Objectives**

The Parties agree to work together to:

**Invest in Northern Resilience and Core Infrastructure**

The Parties call on the Government of Canada to prioritize sustained investment in climate-resilient, dual-use infrastructure across Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and Iqaluit. These investments should strengthen both defence and civilian capacity — including municipal core systems such as water, wastewater, solid waste, housing, transportation, communications, energy, and large community facilities — to ensure northern



communities remain secure, livable, and operationally ready in support of Canada's Arctic sovereignty and national security objectives.

### **Strengthen Federal-Municipal Collaboration in Arctic Planning and Operations**

The Parties call on the Government of Canada to deepen collaboration with the northern capital cities in advancing Arctic sovereignty, defence readiness, and operational planning. This includes embedding municipal perspectives in national security, infrastructure, and investment decisions; ensuring early engagement on CAF and NORAD activities; and aligning municipal capacity and growth planning with federal priorities for northern development and resilience.

### **Provide Structured Partnership and Capacity Support for Northern Municipalities**

The Parties urge the Government of Canada to establish a structured, ongoing framework for collaboration and capacity support with the northern capitals. This includes providing predictable funding and technical assistance to enable effective municipal readiness in Arctic security initiatives, infrastructure, housing and workforce planning, and the sharing of data, research, and best practices to advance economic opportunity and community resilience.

## **3. Principles of Collaboration**

The Parties share:

- **Mutual Respect and Trust:** Recognizing the unique strengths and strategic value of each municipality.
- **Transparency:** Sharing relevant information and updates in a timely and open manner.
- **Coordination:** Aligning advocacy efforts to present a unified northern voice.
- **Community Engagement:** Ensuring local stakeholders are informed, represented, and involved.
- **Shared Prosperity:** Promoting economic development and job creation that benefits all three communities.

## **4. Inuit, First Nations and Métis Participation and Engagement**

The Parties recognize the significance of Inuit, First Nations and Métis participation in northern planning and development. Each Party will engage with relevant Inuit, First

Nations and Métis governments and groups, as required and consistent with best practices in their respective territories, to inform initiatives undertaken within the scope of this MOU.

## **5. Intergovernmental Coordination and Capacity Support**

The Parties jointly call on:

- **The Government of Canada and its departments**, including DND;
- **The Canadian Armed Forces**;
- **The North American Aerospace Defense Command**;
- **The Government of the Northwest Territories, the Government of Yukon, and the Government of Nunavut**, and their respective departments;

To coordinate and collaborate in the planning and implementation of Arctic sovereignty and security initiatives, and to provide capacity funding to the Cities of Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and Iqaluit to enable meaningful participation in these efforts, including planning, engagement, and infrastructure readiness.

## **6. Governance and Communication**

- The mayors will meet regularly, or as needed, to review progress and coordinate actions.
- Designated staff or representatives from each municipality will support implementation.
- Any joint communications and advocacy materials will be developed and approved by all Parties.

## **7. General**

- This MOU will remain in effect for a period of three (3) years from the date of signing, unless terminated earlier by mutual agreement. It may be reviewed annually, amended as needed by mutual consent of the parties, and renewed as necessary.
- This MOU does not create any rights or legal obligations between the Parties.
- The Parties agree that this MOU does not prohibit a Party from independently communicating with, and advocating to, the Government of Canada, Territorial

Governments, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis governments and development corporations, in relation to the subject matter of this MOU.

## **8. Signatures**

### **Mayor Ben Hendriksen**

City of Yellowknife

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Mayor Kirk Cameron**

City of Whitehorse

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ Mayor Solomon Awa**

City of Iqaluit

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_