



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Special Council

**Wednesday, March 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, March 18, 2026 in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to give First, Second and Third Reading of By-law No. 5127, a by-law to declare a one-half (1/2) day civic holiday on Friday, March 20, 2026 to enjoy the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) Spring Carnival.

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 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

<Original Signed by the City Manager>

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Stephen Van Dine  
City Manager



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

DATE: March 16, 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 March 18, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to give First, Second and Third Reading of By-law No. 5127, a by-law to declare a one-half (1/2) day civic holiday on Friday, March 20, 2026 to enjoy the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) Spring Carnival.

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, March 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 [www.yellowknife.ca](http://www.yellowknife.ca) or by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 920-5602.



**Item No.**

**Description**

**OPENING STATEMENT**

1. Councillor Arden-Smith 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 present By-law No. 5127, a by-law to declare a one-half (1/2) day civic holiday on Friday, March 20, 2026, to enjoy the Yellowknives Dene First Nation Spring Carnival, for adoption.

**ENACTMENT OF BY-LAWS**

4. By-law No. 5127 - A by-law to declare a one-half (1/2) day civic holiday on Friday, March 20, 2026 to enjoy the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) Spring Carnival, is presented for First, Second and Third Reading.

5. Councillor Arden-Smith moves,  
Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ seconds,

**First Reading of By-law No. 5127.**

Unanimous	In Favour	Opposed	Carried / Defeated
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6. Councillor Arden-Smith moves,  
Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ seconds,

**Second Reading of By-law No. 5127.**



**Item No.**

**Description**

Unanimous	In Favour	Opposed	Carried / Defeated
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7.

Councillor Arden-Smith moves,  
Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ seconds,

**That By-law No. 5127 be presented for Third Reading.**

Unanimous	In Favour	Opposed	Carried / Defeated
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8.

Councillor Arden-Smith moves,  
Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ seconds,

**Third Reading of By-law No. 5127.**

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



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

**MEMORANDUM TO COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE:** Special Council

**DATE:** March 18, 2026

**DEPARTMENT:** Governance and Legal Services

**ISSUE:** Whether to present By-law No. 5127, a by-law to declare a one-half (1/2) day civic holiday on Friday, March 20, 2026, to enjoy the Yellowknives Dene First Nation Spring Carnival, for adoption.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That By-law No. 5127, a by-law to declare a one-half (1/2) day civic holiday on Friday, March 20, 2026 to enjoy the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) Spring Carnival, be presented for adoption.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Yellowknife has received a request from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation leadership to declare a half-day civic holiday on Friday, March 20, 2026 when the YKDFN Spring Carnival is scheduled to begin. Yellowknife City Council has declared a half-day civic holiday in recognition of the YKDFN Spring Carnival since March 2023.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) supports one-half day holiday per year for community-declared events such as carnivals or jamborees and looks to each community to confirm if/when events are happening.

**COUNCIL STRATEGIC DIRECTION/RESOLUTION/POLICY:**

**Strategic Direction #1: People First**

Focus Area 1.1 Reconciliation  
Continuing to nurture positive and respectful relations with Indigenous governments, organizations and peoples.

Key Initiative 1.1.1 Continuing to strengthen relations with Indigenous governments and peoples.

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

1. *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*;

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

Legislative

Pursuant to Section 4 of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, the City has the general authority to declare a civic holiday. Section 70(1) outlines the general areas in which a municipality may make by-laws, and includes the authority to declare such a holiday.

Reconciliation

Declaring a civic holiday on the afternoon of Friday, March 20, 2026 when the YKDFN Spring Carnival is scheduled to begin, supports Yellowknifers to participate in YKDFN activities and enhance community relationships. YKDFN leadership supports this proposed action by the City and encourages Yellowknifers to attend the planned Carnival events.

Procedural

The City must declare a civic holiday by-law. The City is required to advise the GNWT as soon as a decision is made if there will be a half-day civic holiday in 2026.

**ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION:**

That By-law No. 5127, a by-law to declare a one-half (1/2) day civic holiday on Friday, March 20, 2026 not be presented for adoption.

**RATIONALE:**

The City has, in the past, declared a one-half day civic holiday to encourage attendance and participation by residents at spring carnival events such as the Long John Jamboree and previously, Caribou Carnival. Since COVID, many community events have been challenged to continue, including Long John Jamboree, thus affecting community spirit and connection. Supporting a civic holiday in 2026 to encourage Yellowknifers to participate in the YKDFN Spring Carnival will endorse Yellowknifers' ability to actively engage in cultural activities and the northern tradition of spring carnivals.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

By-law No. 5127, a by-law to declare a one-half (1/2) day civic holiday on Friday, March 20, 2026. (DM#818561).

Prepared: March 16, 2026 DMG



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

**BY-LAW NO. 5127**

**BG 84**

A BY-LAW of the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, to declare a one-half (1/2) day civic holiday on Friday, March 20, 2026, to enjoy the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) Spring Carnival.

PURSUANT TO sections 4 and 70(1) of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, SNWT 2003, c.22.

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Yellowknife wishes to encourage the citizens of Yellowknife to enjoy and participate in the festivities of the YKDFN Spring Carnival on Friday, March 20, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE, in regular sessions duly assembled, enacts as follows:

**APPLICATION**

1. This by-law may be cited as the “Yellowknives Dene First Nation 2026 Spring Carnival By-law”.
2. That the period from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Friday, March 20, 2026 is hereby declared to be a civic holiday.

**EFFECT**

3. That this by-law shall come into effect upon receiving Third Reading and otherwise meets the requirements of Section 75 of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*.

Read a First time this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

Read a Second Time this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

Read a Third Time and Finally Passed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D., 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

I hereby certify that this by-law has been made in accordance with the requirements of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* and the by-laws of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Yellowknife.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager