



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 12:10 p.m.

Report of a meeting held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 12:10 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber.
The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Mayor B. Hendriksen,
Councillor S. Arden-Smith,
Councillor R. Fequet,
Councillor R. Foote,
Councillor C. McGurk,
Councillor T. McLennan,
Councillor S. Payne, and
Councillor R. Warburton.

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

S. Van Dine,
M. Alam,
C. Caljouw,
D. Gillard,
C. Greencorn,
C. MacLean,
R. Solatorio,
C. White,
G. White, and
S. Jovic.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	(For Information Only) Councillor McLennan read the Opening Statement at the Special Council Meeting held immediately preceding this meeting.
2.	(For Information Only) Councillor Payne declared a conflict with Item #4 on the agenda, a presentation regarding Home Base Line Drive Outreach Program, as he is on the Board of Directors for Line Drive, and excused himself from the meeting at 12:10 p.m.



(For Information Only)

3. Committee heard a presentation from Tammy Roberts and Traci Mercer, a representative from Home Base Yellowknife, regarding Home Base Line Drive Outreach Program.
4. In response to a question from Council, Administration undertook to provide a year-by-year comparison of substance related calls from 2022 to the end of 2025, distinguishing between the previous and current service contractors.

(For Information Only)

5. Councillor Payne returned to the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

(For Information Only)

6. Committee accepted for information a memorandum regarding Community Plan Comprehensive Update, Section 1- Section 6.

This memo accompanies the first of two presentations in which Administration will clearly articulate the major policy shifts and new directions proposed in the draft Community Plan.

To support focused and meaningful input from the Committee, this presentation will focus on:

1. New policy areas that are introduced in the Plan, and
2. Substantive changes to existing policy directions

The policies have been shifted toward an implementation-oriented planning framework. In particular:

- The emphasis on housing and workforce accommodation responds directly to current supply constraints and affordability challenges.
- The introduction of new growth areas and corridors reflects a more strategic and fiscally responsible (HAF, use of existing and planned future services etc.) approach to land development.
- Introduction of land use overlays to provide clarity of information, enabling the City to address specific policy needs without complicating the base land use designations.

These combined efforts have culminated in the draft Community Plan currently before Committee. Due to the breadth and complexity of the document, the draft policies are being presented in two parts: the first portion (Attachment A) at this meeting, and the remaining sections scheduled for April 22, 2026.

For a detailed comparison with the current Community Plan, including redline and track changes, please see Attachment B. For a clean version of the draft, see Attachment C.

What We've Accomplished So Far:



The Planning and Development Department initiated the Community Plan Comprehensive Update (CPU) in early 2025, with the project work plan presented to the Governance and Priorities Committee on February 3, 2025. This update represents a significant and necessary modernization of the City's long-range land use planning, ensuring alignment with emerging demographic trends, economic opportunities and evolving community priorities.

A key technical foundation of the CPU is the Population Projections Report, presented to Committee in September 2025. This report established low, medium, and high growth scenarios over a 25-year horizon, providing a scenario-based framework to assess future land requirements, infrastructure demand, and housing needs. This scenario-based approach reflects best practices in municipal planning, particularly relevant to northern and resource-influenced communities where growth can be variable and cyclical.

To meet statutory requirements under the *Community Planning and Development Act*, the City undertook a comprehensive and multi-phased engagement program supported by an external consulting team. Phase 1 (Visioning and Goal Setting) and Phase 2 (Policy Directions) engagement findings were presented to Committee in September 22, 2025 and January 26, 2026, respectively.

Phase 1 engagement established a shared community vision and thematic goals, which have been carried forward as the guiding framework for policy development. Phase 2 engagement adopted a more targeted, focus group-based approach, enabling deeper dialogue on complex planning issues. Importantly, this phase was structured to allow Administration to interpret and translate community input into implementable policy directions - bridging the gap between public aspirations and regulatory outcomes.

[Public Engagement Phase 1 report can be found here.](#)

[Public Engagement Phase 2 report can be found here.](#)

In parallel, substantial technical work was undertaken, including:

- Comprehensive background research and land needs analysis;
- Spatial mapping exercises in collaboration with the City's mapping consultant;
- Ongoing engagement with Indigenous governments to ensure alignment, coordination, and respect for shared interests and long-term planning considerations; and
- Internal workshop style feedback sessions with the divisional managers and consultants working on the Transportation Master Plan.

Next Steps & Milestones:



The project is currently in **Phase 4: Draft Plan and Policy Review**, representing a critical transition from policy development to validation and refinement. Once a full draft is completed, the key next steps and milestones are:

- The final phase of public engagement (Phase 3) will be undertaken in April/May 2026, focusing on review and feedback on the draft Plan;
- A statutory Public Hearing is anticipated for June 2026;
- Final adoption (Phase 5) is targeted for July 2026, including Council's second reading and submission to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) for approval.

From a planning perspective, the City is now at an important stage of the process, where policy directions are tested for clarity, implement-ability, and alignment with Council priorities before being finalized.

Next Presentation at GPC:

On April 22, 2026, Administration will present the remaining policy sections of the Community Plan, including:

Strategic Priorities & Policies

1. Environment
2. Climate Action
3. Transportation
4. Municipal Infrastructure

These sections will complete the policy framework by addressing critical systems that support land use and growth management. Following Committee input, Administration will refine the draft Plan in preparation for the final presentation of the Draft Community Plan Update by end of May and a Statutory Public Hearing by end of June.

Council Strategic Direction/Resolution/Policy include:

Strategic Direction #1:

People First

Focus Area 1.1

Reconciliation

Continuing to nurture positive and respectful relations with Indigenous governments, organizations and peoples.

Focus Area 1.2

Housing for All

Doing our part to create the context for diverse housing and accommodation options.

Focus Area 1.3

Liveable Community



Supporting all residents to participate in the social fabric and physical space of our community.

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 3.2

Growth Readiness

Ensuring land development supports economic readiness and community priorities.

Focus Area 3.3

Robust Economy

Doing our part to stimulate and amplify economic development opportunities.

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

1. *Cities, Towns and Villages Act S.N.W.T. 2003;*
2. *Community Planning and Development Act S.N.W.T. 2011, c.22; and*
3. *Community Plan By-law No. 5007, as amended;*

(For Information Only)

7. Committee recessed at 1:17 p.m. and reconvened at 1:27 p.m.

(For Information Only)

8. Committee continued its discussion regarding the Community Plan Comprehensive Update, Section 1- Section 6.

(For Information Only)

9. Councillor Payne left the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

(For Information Only)

10. Committee continued its discussion regarding the Community Plan Comprehensive Update, Section 1- Section 6.

(For Information Only)

11. Councillor Foote left the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

(For Information Only)

12. Committee continued its discussion regarding the Community Plan Comprehensive Update, Section 1- Section 6.

13. In response to questions from Committee, Administration undertook to return with additional information, rationale, and recommendations based on Committee feedback.



- (For Information Only)
14. Councillor Warburton moved,
Councillor McGurk seconded,

That Committee move in camera at 3:14 p.m. to discuss a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness and a personnel matter.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- (For Information Only)
15. Committee discussed a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

- (For Information Only)
16. Committee deferred a discussion regarding a personnel matter to a future meeting.

- (For Information Only)
17. Councillor Fequet moved,
Councillor McGurk seconded,

That Committee return to an open meeting at 3:29 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- (Business Arising from in Camera Session)
18. **Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to appoint members to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.**

Committee noted that there are vacancies on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness for: One (1) representative from an organization serving women/families fleeing violence; One (1) representative from Indigenous Peoples or organizations, including Friendship Centres or Indigenous housing organizations; One (1) representative from an organization serving persons with disabilities; and One (1) representative from Veterans Affairs Canada or veterans serving organization.

It is the practice of the City of Yellowknife to advertise all vacancies for boards and committees. The City has advertised vacancies on the Community Advisory Board (CAB) on Homelessness on the City's website and social media sites.

Council Strategic Direction/Resolution/Policy include:

Strategic Direction #1 People First



Motion #0459-96, as amended by #0460-96, #0462-96 and #0273-09:

“The following policy be adopted with respect to appointments to municipal boards and committees:

- i) The maximum consecutive years that an individual may serve on any one board or committee is six.
- ii) Individuals who have served the maximum six-year period on one municipal board or committee shall be eligible to be appointed to another board or committee.
- iii) No individual shall be precluded from serving concurrent terms on more than one municipal board or committee.
- iv) Notwithstanding that an individual appointee has served less than six years on a particular board or committee, Council may, after the expiration of the first or subsequent terms of that appointee, advertise for applicants to fill a vacancy on that board or committee.
- v) Notwithstanding clause (i.) of this policy, should the City receive no applications to fill a vacancy on any particular board or committee, the six year maximum limitation may, at the discretion of City Council, be waived.
- vi) Should the City receive no applications to fill a vacancy on any particular board or committee, City Council may appoint a member of the public at their discretion.

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

Council Procedures By-law No. 5119.

Legislation

Section 114 of Council Procedures By-law No. 5119 states:

Special Committees of Council

114. Where Council deems it necessary to establish a special committee to investigate and consider any matter, Council shall:

- (1) name the committee;
- (2) establish terms of reference;
- (3) appoint members to it;
- (4) establish the term of appointment of members;
- (5) establish requirements for reporting to Council or a standing committee; and
- (6) allocate any necessary budget or other resources to it.

Procedural Considerations

All appointments to Special Committees must be approved by Council.

The composition of the Committee was structured so that various segments of the community are represented.

Committee noted that Committee members will assist the City in an advisory capacity regarding homelessness issues within the municipal boundaries of the City of Yellowknife. Appointing a full complement of Members will ensure that the work of the committee is completed in a timely fashion.



Committee recommended that Council appoint the following members to serve on the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB) commencing April 23, 2026 and ending April 22, 2028:

Name	Representing
Nomazulu Khumalo	One (1) representative from an organization serving women/families fleeing violence
Byrne Richard	One (1) representative from Indigenous Peoples or organizations, including Friendship Centres or Indigenous housing organizations
Gloria Francis	One (1) representative from a youth serving organizations, including non-government Child Welfare agencies
Denise McKee	One (1) representative from an organization serving persons with disabilities
Brenda Kowana	One (1) representative from Veterans Affairs Canada or veterans serving organizations

MOVE APPROVAL

19. The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.