2004 EDITION

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COMMUNITY PROFILES

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Introduction-The Yukon

The Yukon is no longer the frontier society of gold rush legend, but neither is it exactly like southern Canada. If you want to live, work, or simply do business in the Yukon, it's useful to know something about the nature of the place and the people who live there.

In terms of population, the Yukon is small. The average annual population for 2003 was 29,967, and by June 2004, the population had increased to 30,469. From 1997 to 2002 more people moved out of the territory than into it. This shift in migration was an exception, however, and the latest population numbers reflect a return to positive net in-migration to the Yukon. Although the Yukon population has fluctuated historically, usually in response to changes in the mining industry, today the population is relatively stable. Many people were born in the Yukon or are long-term residents. Another stabilizing factor is the large local First Nations population: 23 percent of the total population, according to the 2001 Census, compared to 3.3 percent for Canada as a whole. People living in the Yukon, whether born in the Yukon or who moved to the Yukon because of the lifestyle, are closely connected to the territory. Even when they move away for careers or training, they often return when the opportunity arises.

The Yukon population is a little younger than the Canadian average: there are proportionately more children, and adults of working age. There are also comparatively few people over 65 years of age. In some smaller communities the proportion of younger adults of working age is a little lower than the Yukon average. This reflects some movement out of these communities to take further education, establish careers or look for work. People who have moved remain closely attached to their home community; they return frequently and often for long periods of time. When the opportunity arises, they will sometimes return to live in the community. As First Nations further develop economic activity in these smaller communities the population will likely be augmented by returning community members.

LIVING AND DOING BUSINESS IN THE YUKON

The Yukon is in the far north, a long way from most centres in Canada. This affects life, work and business in the Yukon. In some ways, however, distance and location have surprisingly little impact.

Travel is affected most by the Yukon's location. Air service connects Whitehorse directly with Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton year-round, but daily scheduled flights can be busy. Booking ahead is important as airfares can be expensive and seats can be hard to find during busy periods. Increased competition has brought some reduction in fares. Major airlines serve the Territory on a regular schedule throughout the year with increased service in the summer.

For the size of the population, the Yukon has good roads, including a major section of the Alaska Highway. Major roads are paved, and all communities except Old Crow have year-round road access. When driving in winter, it's still wise to carry emergency equipment. Public ground transportation within the Yukon is limited to bus service, mainly within Whitehorse. Small airlines offer year-round scheduled flights to a few communities and charter flights to others, but extreme winter weather can ground planes with little warning. Cars and trucks can be hired from rental firms in Whitehorse and in a few of the larger communities.

The climate requires a certain amount of planning for all activities. Yukon winters are a couple of months longer than those of southern Canada, and temperatures can drop to minus 50. They can also soar above freezing, however, even in the middle of winter. Summers are short and warm, at times hot, with long sunlit days, but even in July and August night-time temperatures can drop to freezing. The best approach is to expect variability in every season, and in winter expect cold.

Other aspects of location and distance have less impact. Mail is delivered regularly to all Yukon communities, but not necessarily on a daily basis. A few national couriers serve Whitehorse, and local couriers serve a couple of communities. There is regular freight traffic within and from outside the Yukon. In spite of all this, it is a good idea to allow ample time for delivery of parts and supplies.

All communities have standard telephone service, but some rural areas have radiophones only or no phones at all. Cell phone coverage is restricted to Whitehorse and its immediate surroundings, and limited service in Tagish as of March 2004. Most major Canadian service suppliers and some American companies have "roaming" agreements with the Yukon supplier, NMI Mobility, but it is important to check with service suppliers to find out if cell phones from elsewhere will work in the Yukon.

The tourist season is very intense in the Yukon. From late May until late September, the Yukon is flooded with tourists. Hotels and restaurants are all open, and they are busy. People in tourism-related businesses are very busy during this season. Business travelers need to plan with the tourist season in mind. The best approach is to book travel, accommodation and meetings well ahead. In the off-season, people are easier to contact and prices often drop. Some hotels and restaurants, particularly in the small communities, simply shut down until spring. Although all communities have some form of year-round accommodation and services, it's still a good idea to book ahead to have the best choice. Whitehorse and the larger communities all have many hotels, motels and restaurants open year-round.

Certain holidays and events in the Yukon may also require some planning for business visitors. Although most of the rest of Canada takes its long weekend at the beginning of August, Yukoners wait to celebrate the anniversary of the discovery of Klondike gold on the

weekend closest to August 17. In February and March, most communities hold a winter festival. Whitehorse's Sourdough Rendezvous, in the third week of February, fills local hotels and takes much of the city's attention for at least part of the week. Another winter event that fills airplanes and hotels is the Yukon Quest sled dog race, run between Whitehorse and Fairbanks, Alaska, in late February and early March.

The proximity to wilderness and the sense of frontier are reflected in various ways in the Yukon. It is not surprising to see wildlife, such as elk, moose, or even bear. Most Yukoners are interested in outdoors activities and may hike, ski, canoe or hunt. Sports facilities both for children and adults are very well supported. Dress is sometimes casual, although office workers may also dress in standard business wear. Boots are of course standard wear in winter, and practicalities mean that many passenger vehicles are SUVs or pick-up trucks.

Yukoners, on the whole, have considerable contact with and often first-hand knowledge of the rest of the world. Many residents travel extensively outside the Yukon, to visit family or conduct business. Yukon restaurants, delis, and bakeries attest to residents' knowledgeable tastes.

Cultural life is rich. Northern interests and isolation inspire residents to support many active arts organizations, drama groups, and museums. The Yukon Arts Centre hosts performances by local artists, musicians, dancers and theatre groups, as well as performers brought in from around the country. First Nations cultural events, arts, and crafts add to this richness. Special events happen all year long. The Yukon's annual calendar includes folk music festivals, rodeos, storytelling festivals, trade shows, and races involving every imaginable form of locomotion.

Yukon College, with a presence in most communities, provides education ranging from vocational training to university credits. It also houses the Northern Research Institute. The main campus in Whitehorse has a residence for students from other communities and international students.

Modern technology and communications also work to reduce the impact of location. Most Yukoners have ready access to television, radio, and film videotapes and DVDs, and every communitiy except Ross River and Faro has high-speed access to the Internet.

A 2003 Yukon Bureau of Statistics survey of Yukon business operations revealed a high diversity of businesses in the Yukon. Just over a third of the businesses have been in operation since before 1990 and there has been active business development since 2000. The professional, scientific and technical services sector has seen the most rapid growth, with almost 100 new businesses established between 2000 and early 2003, when the survey was done. While Whitehorse is home to the majority of businesses, Dawson, Watson Lake and Haines Junction also have a sizeable number, with smaller numbers of firms in other communities.

An increasing number of home-based businesses started up during the 1990s and up to 2003. In many cases this was linked to the strong growth in professional and technical areas, as well as to tourism. The majority of business owners or managers said that they expected their businesses to grow. A significant proportion of tourism–related businesses (accommodation, arts and recreation, culture, retail trade and transportation) noted that they expected growth. This was also the case in the professional and technical area.

The most common advantage identified by non-home-based business operators was a stable customer base. Home-based businesses felt the major advantage was the small, tight-knit community. Lifestyle choice was identified as the second most popular advantage to doing business in the Yukon.

THE ECONOMY

Economic development in the Yukon has been closely linked to mining for more than a century. The economy has boomed or declined, according to the mining industry's cycles. Other factors are now reducing the Yukon's dependence on mining. Government, First Nations land claims agreements, and tourism all have an impact on the economy. Oil and gas development, forestry, and agriculture are currently experiencing more activity than mining, but they remain smaller areas for employment.

Employment in the Yukon declined from 1998 to 2001, a response to the closure of the mine at Faro. This was reflected in the 2001 Census, which showed an unemployment rate for the Yukon of 11.6 percent compared to a Canada-wide rate of 7.4 percent. Since 2001, however, employment in the Yukon has seen a significant turnaround. From April 2003 to April 2004 the number of employed Yukoners increased by 1,200 (just over 9 percent). Unemployment in the Yukon has also dropped considerably since 2001. In the past year alone the number of unemployed people has declined by 500, or 35 percent. In April 2004 the Yukon unemployment rate, at 6.0 percent, moved below the Canadian rate of 7.3 percent.

Government activity and employment are major supports to the Yukon economy. Territorial, federal, municipal, and First Nations governments create jobs, as do health care, education, and social services, all of which are run by governments. In 2003, governments employed close to 5,000 people, just under a third of all those employed in the Yukon.

Land claims agreements and First Nations self-governance are already having a major effect on government and work. A large number of people across the Yukon are involved in negotiating and implementing agreements. These agreements hold even greater economic promise for the future, especially for First Nations members.

First Nations economic development should boost employment, particularly in areas like resource management and

tourism. Both economic development and the provision of social and other services by First Nations governments will create jobs in smaller communities. Knowledgeable and highly skilled workers will be much in demand, especially in fields like technical resource occupations, financial and other management, social and health services, and other service occupations.

Tourism increased considerably during the 1990s but was affected — as tourism all over the world has been —by the terrorist attacks in 2001. In 2004 tourism seems to be returning to its long-term trend of continued growth. Tourism now provides a significant number of jobs in fields like accommodation and food services, recreation, transportation, and retail trade. Much tourism is seasonal, based on traffic along the Alaska Highway, but there has been growth in activities that broaden the client base and extend the tourist season. Cultural activities, partly linked to tourism, also provide at least part- year income for many people in the Yukon.

The Canadian dollar is still low enough to attract European, American, and other tourists. The Yukon is also viewed as a safe location for holidays, especially in this time of security consciousness. Growing interest in wilderness tourism and ecotourism has also brought dollars and jobs into the Territory. Yukon tourism now offers summer and winter attractions, a wide variety of wilderness activities, and an increasing level of quality and professionalism. Further growth in the industry is likely to come from First Nations tourism development and from even stronger interest in the Yukon's wilderness and scenic beauty.

In the late 1990s to 2001 the Yukon mining sector declined massively, like most mining around the world. The Yukon economy suffered from lost mining jobs, reduced exploration spending, and the departure of former mine workers. While the industry has not yet recovered, higher mineral prices are leading to more exploration.

Mining still has the potential to provide economic growth for the Territory in the longer term. The Yukon's mineral resources are expected to again attract attention but the Territory does remain a high cost area for production. New mines won't be quite like the old ones: the industry worldwide has been forced to reduce costs and increase productivity. New mines, in the Yukon and elsewhere, will employ fewer and more highly-skilled people than in the past.

There are many positive indicators for the Yukon's economic future. The Territory has a stable population base and skilled, well-educated workers. The settling of land claims is opening up new economic opportunities. First Nations self-government is creating local jobs. Tourism and new resource-based industries are providing diversity. The considerable number of business start-ups in professional, scientific and technical fields further emphasises how the Yukon economy is expanding and diversifying. The recovery of the world mining industry, and the Yukon's mining sector along with it, can only continue to strengthen the Territory's economic picture.

THE AFY AND THE FRANCO-YUKON COMMUNITY

Francophones have been in the Yukon since the 1800s. As gold prospectors, trappers, pioneers, missionaries, adventurers or merchants, Francophones were part of the history of the Yukon throughout the 19th century. For instance, the founder of the city of Dawson, Joseph Ladue (Ledoux), although born in the United States, came from a French-Canadian family. It was also common to hear French at the Hudson's Bay Company trading posts in this era. Nowadays, 1,120 Francophones live in the Yukon and represent about 3.9 percent of the total population.

Can Francophone families move to the Yukon and have their children educated in French? Will they find a community life that will allow them to speak French outside the home? Thanks to the Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY), which was founded in 1982, this is indeed possible. AFY acts as an advocate for Francophones and as a community development agency. It can boast many achievements and is working on several plans to further improve the quality of life in French in the Yukon.

In 2001, the Franco-Yukon community was proud to inaugurate the new Centre de la francophonie du Yukon in Whitehorse. The Centre houses the offices for various Francophone groups in the region, including AFY, Aurore boreale newspaper, the economic development organization RDÉE Yukon, Comité espoir jeunesse, Les EssentiElles women's group and the Service d'orientation et de formation des adultes.

For more information, visit the AFY web site: http://www.afy.ca.

MORE INFORMATION

Details about Yukon First Nations can be found in a book, *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*, published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1998. Information is also available on-line at http://sdiprod2.inac.gc.ca/FNProfiles/

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics has annual economic and statistical reviews at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/stats/index.html

The Yukon Business Survey 2003 provides information on businesses in the Yukon: http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/stats/annual/busurvey03.pdf

For general information about the Yukon, see Yukon Fact Sheets at http://www.gov.yk.ca/facts/

The Strategis Business Map has some community information, links to Statistics Canada community information and a map system: http://commercecan.ic.gc.ca/scdt/bizmap/interface2.nsf/engdocBasic/0.html

For current job listings throughout the Yukon, check the Yukon office of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shmtl

Industry, working conditions, and occupation trend information can be found in *Yukon WorkFutures* at http://workfutures.yk.ca

For detailed information on minerals and mining developments see http://www.yukonmining.com

Tourism business information can be seen at http://www.tirc.gov.yk.ca

For more information on starting and operating a business in the Yukon, see the Canada-Yukon Business Service Centre at http://www.cbsc.org/yukon

See the Yukon Chamber of Commerce at www.yukonchamber.com

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/

For information about the local environment, see the *Yukon State of the Environment Report* at http://www.taiga.net/yukonsoe/

For a directory of territorial jobs, careers, education, information, calendar of events & community announcements, see http://www.yuwin.ca

The Community of Beaver Creek

Beaver Creek, just a few kilometres from the Alaska border on the Alaska Highway, is the most westerly settlement in Canada. This small community is primarily a border post and a service centre for the Alaska Highway. It is also the home of the White River First Nation. Although it's on the Alaska Highway, Beaver Creek is relatively isolated from other Yukon communities, lying almost 300 km northwest of Haines Junction and 457 km from the territorial capital, Whitehorse.

Traditionally the area around Beaver Creek was home to the Upper Tanana people who camped there on their seasonal migrations. In the early 1900s, the settlement of Beaver Creek was established as a camp for the team surveying the Canada-Alaska border. Later, mining interest developed in the area and in the 1940s, the Alaska Highway was constructed. In the mid-1950s, a Canada Customs post was built and the community of Beaver Creek began to develop.

Total Population

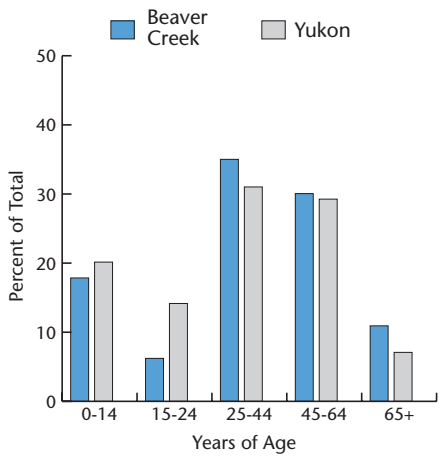
year	*population*
2003	109
2002	112
2001	114
2000	126
1999	122
1998	109
1997	116
1996	140
1995	138
1994	136
1993	123

PEOPLE

Beaver Creek's population averaged 109 in 2003, the same as in 1998 but down considerably from the 140 reported in 1996. The population is lower than it was in 1991.

The 2001 Census indicated that White River First Nation members made up a little under half of the population. In addition, a number of non-First Nations people live and work in Beaver Creek, providing border crossing and territorial government services as well as commercial services for travelers.

Age Distribution



Because of this population mix, determining mobility is quite complex. The 2001 Census reported that a little over half of the people living in Beaver Creek that year had been living there in 1996. A fairly large proportion (about 35 percent) of people living in Beaver Creek in 2001 had moved there from outside the Yukon. Others had moved from elsewhere in the Yukon. This is not an unexpected pattern of mobility, since the people who work in many non-First Nations government services are posted to the Beaver Creek area for limited periods of time.

Just over half the population is female (53 percent), a little higher than for the Yukon as a whole, where 50 percent are female.

The age distribution of Beaver Creek reflects the lack of work for local young people and their tendency to move

out of the area, for periods of time at least, to look for market work elsewhere or to complete their education. The proportion of people in the prime working age range (25 to 44 years) was 35 percent. In the Yukon as a whole, 31 percent of the population falls into this age group. As in the Yukon population, 18 percent of the population is aged 14 or under. The proportion of young persons aged 15 to 24 is only 6 percent, considerably below the Yukon average.

Older people, those 65 and over, make up 11 percent of the Beaver Creek population, significantly higher than the Yukon average of 7 percent. This is another indication that many young people leave the community to look for work elsewhere.

FIRST NATIONS

Beaver Creek is the home of the White River First Nation, which is culturally affiliated with both the Upper Tanana people of Alaska and the Northern Tutchone people to the south and east. The White River First Nation membership is estimated at about 220.

Calculations generated by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 2004 for their internal purposes estimated the registered population of the White River First Nation at 139, many of whom live in other communities. First Nations' calculations of their population numbers may differ from Government of Canada figures and may include registered beneficiaries, non-beneficiary citizens and others.

The Upper Tanana language is an Athapaskan dialect and one of many Athapaskan language groupings. People from the Upper Tanana and Northern Tutchone make up the membership of the White River First Nation. The Upper Tanana traditional area extends deep into the Alaskan interior and into the Yukon's mid-western section. Long ago, there were no borders to divide the people of White River and their relatives in Northway and other Alaskan villages. The small town of Beaver Creek is not the original village site of the Upper Tanana people; they were relocated from Snag and Scottie Creek after the construction of the Alaska Highway in 1942.

In traditional times, the Upper Tanana people pursued a nomadic way of life, following big game, trapping, and fishing, moving with the seasons and setting up camps wherever there was an abundance of natural resources and food. They developed a strict social order within their clan systems and social organization. They celebrated all occasions of life with the institution of the potlatch, a tradition that is carried on today.

The Department of Indian Affairs grouped the Upper Tanana people of Beaver Creek with the Southern Tutchone people of the Kluane area to form the Kluane Band, although they saw themselves as two distinct groups. In 1991, at a General Assembly of the Council of Yukon First Nations, the White River First Nation officially separated from the Kluane First Nation to form their own First Nation.

The White River First Nation is completing the final legal and technical review of their land claims and self-government agreements, and expect to begin the ratification process in the fall of 2004. The White River First Nation Council administers a variety of housing, municipal,

and social programs for its members. Members of the White River First Nation are very active in their cultural revival, promoting traditional dancing, singing, and language programs.

THE ECONOMY

The economy of Beaver Creek is not extensive. Government services, which include the Canada Customs post, territorial government, and First Nation administration, provide most longer-term work in the community.

Tourism is the other major money economy in the area. Most tourist facilities are open only from May to September, the prime Yukon tourist season.

First Nations people in Beaver Creek also rely on subsistence and traditional activities. Many people get a significant portion of their food supply from hunting and fishing, and some earn cash through trapping. Traditional crafts are created, and some are sold at a craft store in Beaver Creek.

WORK

At the time of the 2001 Census, about 80 percent of Beaver Creek adults (those 15 years of age and over) reported that they were involved in the formal labour market. This is about the same as the Yukon rate. It is important to remember, however, that this proportion includes a significant number of government employees posted to the community.

Unemployment in Beaver Creek, in 2001 was 18 percent, compared to a Yukon average of 12 percent in that year. The unemployed are almost all local people, since most people who move into Beaver Creek are posted to the community as part of their jobs. Unemployment for males was reportedly even higher than the average rate.

The youth population numbers only a few people, and in 2001 very few of them reported being able to find work.

The Beaver Creek population is too small to provide Census-based information on whether work is full-time, full year, or predominantly part-time. Some First Nations people find longer-term employment with the First Nation government, and there are federal and territorial government employees working in full-time positions. Many others in Beaver Creek will only be able to find seasonal or summer jobs. The provision of tourist services creates some summer jobs, as do local construction and maintenance projects, such as road work.

Information is not available on how many people are self-employed but with the majority of work involving government services, the proportion is likely to be very low

Most people who are employed in Beaver Creek work in social science, education, and government service occupations such as teaching and social work or in service occupations like homecare, sales, and food services. Other important areas of employment are construction or transportation and trades like auto repair. Some people find employment

in management and administration occupations with the First Nation administration or with other government agencies, such as Canada Customs. Others work in primary industry occupations, such as mining, trapping, or forestry. Very few people work mainly in fields like health or the arts, so it is difficult to identify these occupations separately.

EDUCATION

The 2001 Census indicated that almost half of those aged 20 years or older had taken some non-university education or training after leaving school. Over 30 percent of the 20-years-and-older population of Beaver Creek said that their highest level of education was some secondary school. About 40 percent of those living and working in Beaver Creek said they had taken training in a trade area or at a college; almost 15 percent reported having some university-level education.

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

There appears to be little on the horizon to change the profile of the Beaver Creek economy. Tourism is expected to increase as efforts are made throughout the Yukon to attract more visitors and as more activities are developed in tourism geared to adventure, culture, and the environment. Although these developments are likely to increase traffic through the Beaver Creek area to some degree, the increase will probably be largely in traffic flowing through to Whitehorse and then on to other tourist destinations. New tourism-related services may be developed locally, but the majority of work opportunities will continue to be seasonal. In some regions, winter adventure activities are extending the tourism season into fall and winter. This could result in spillover activity in Alaska/Yukon border areas.

Developing tourism activities requires skills in operating motels and lodges and in preparing and serving food. In addition, tourists — especially those travelling from other countries — expect tourism workers to have good communication skills.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Students can attend school from kindergarten to Grade 8 at the Beaver Creek School and then attend secondary school in Haines Junction or Whitehorse.

Although there is no Yukon College campus in Beaver Creek, the college does partner with the White River First Nation, at their request, to provide support for locally developed training. Training has included computer courses, introduction to trades, and arts and culture courses.

Beaver Creek is served by a community health nurse practitioner, who operates a clinic daily on a part-time basis. The nurse practitioner also provides services in the surrounding area.

The White River First Nation provides social assistance, elder care and home care services to members.

YTG provides social worker services to Beaver Creek from Haines Junction.

The RCMP operates a detachment in Beaver Creek, staffed by a corporal and a constable. Probation officer and native courtworker services are provided from Whitehorse.

The White River First Nation provides housing and administers community infrastructure such as water, sewer, local road maintenance and community recreation.

There is a volunteer fire service with a pumper truck and water tanks.

Electricity is provided by diesel generators.

Mail is delivered to the community three times a week.

TD Canada Trust provides banking on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with hours that vary during the year.

Road access is by an all-weather paved road, the Alaska Highway. Whitehorse is 457 km or a six-hour drive away. To the west, over the Alaska border, it is approximately 480 km to Fairbanks. A gravel airstrip at Beaver Creek is maintained year-round.

Beaver Creek has a general store that operates only in the summer. There are three gas stations offering both regular gasoline and diesel fuel.

One inn has a gift shop selling Yukon crafts.

Individual First Nation members also sell authentic local crafts. They are contacted by asking community members.

There is a swimming pool for summer use. In the winter there is a skating rink and a curling rink. There are three inns, with restaurants, two of which operate year-round. There is also a summer-only hostel that provides beds, TV, and flush toilets. Hostel accommodation is at very reasonable rates.

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

Many businesses provide fax service for a fee. Beaver Creek has high-speed access to the Internet, but there is a long-distance charge for connection.

The two year-round inns have restaurants, and their rooms have telephones and TVs.

COST OF LIVING

Cost of living information is not available for Beaver Creek. However, since the community is a substantial distance from larger centres, costs in general can be expected to be high, relative to Whitehorse.

Information from Yukon Region First Nations Profiles reported that in 1998 there were 20 houses and two duplexes managed by the White River First Nation in the community. The 2001 Census has information on 45 occupied dwellings and provides an average housing value at just over $84,500 for a house with two to three bedrooms.

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

Beaver Creek has a variety of recreational activities, including a community club with a gym. Summer activities include swimming, with a summer pool, camping and hiking close at hand. Beaver Creek residents play baseball on two baseball diamonds, and the community sponsors a baseball tournament in July. In winter, residents enjoy snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, skating, and curling. Beaver Creek is known for its curling bonspiel, held in March every year, which brings together curlers from all over the Yukon and Alaska. Satellite dish television connects residents with world programming, which is especially good for rounding out winter activities.

CLIMATE

Summers, (June through August) are mild. Temperatures can reach 30 degrees Celsius but daytime highs normally average 18 to 23 C. In the summer there can be mosquitoes, black flies, and no-see-ums. Snow can fall, and stay, as early as October and melt as late as April. Daytime winter temperatures, December to February, are usually around minus 24 C but have been known to drop to minus 55 C.

MORE INFORMATION

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/

For information on occupations in the Yukon, working conditions, and the Yukon economy, see *Yukon WorkFutures* at http://www.workfutures.yk.ca

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For current job listings throughout the Yukon, check the Yukon office of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml

The Communities of Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay

Along the western shore of Kluane Lake, the largest lake in the Yukon, are two of the Territory's smaller communities, Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay. The communities are located in the Shakwak valley, on the perimeter of Kluane National Park and the Tachal Region. Burwash Landing is on the Alaska Highway about 285 kilometres from Whitehorse and 127 km northwest of Haines Junction. Destruction Bay is also on the highway, 19 km southeast of Burwash Landing and slightly closer to Haines Junction

Burwash Landing is the home of the Kluane First Nation. Southern Tutchone people have inhabited the Kluane area for countless generations. The current site of Burwash Landing was a traditional summer camp location. After the Jacquot brothers built a trading post in the early 1900s, First Nations people began to settle nearby. Burwash Landing had its 100th anniversary in 2004. Burwash became the administrative centre for the Kluane First Nation following construction of the Alaska Highway.

Destruction Bay has a much shorter history. It was established as a centre for construction and maintenance on the Alaska Highway, and that remains its primary role today.

Total Population

year	*Burwash Landing*	*Destruction Bay*
2003	77	52
2002	84	55
2001	84	49
2000	81	46
1999	80	41
1998	81	36
1997	88	41
1996	86	48
1995	79	48
1994	73	44
1993	75	48

PEOPLE

The population of Burwash Landing was 77 in 2003, down a little from the previous year. Local information estimated the population in 2004 at 100. Population numbers have not changed much during the past decade. Destruction Bay shows a somewhat different picture, with the population averaging 52 in 2003 and showing an increase since 1998, which was a low point.

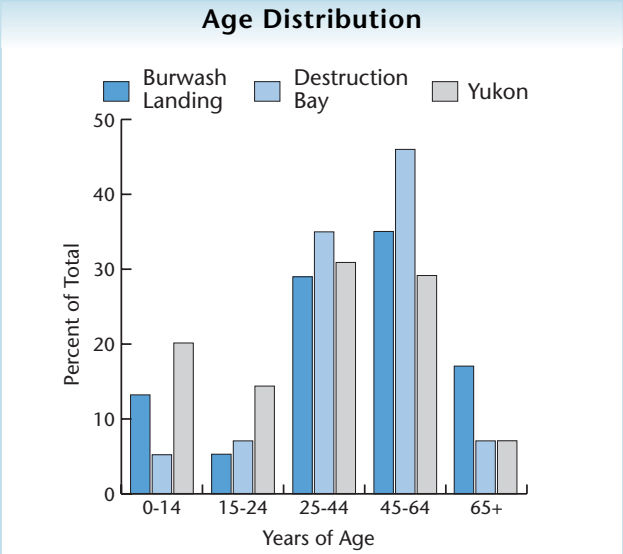
The 2001 Census indicated that Kluane First Nation members made up about three-quarters of the Burwash Landing population. As the Kluane First Nation's home, Burwash Landing has a fairly stable population, although some adults must move to other communities to look for work. Families must also move or board their children for the school year in communities where a high school is located, so that their children can attend higher grades, since the local school goes to Grade 8. The 2001 Census reported that more than 70 percent of the population of Burwash Landing had lived there in 1996. Others had

moved in from elsewhere in the Yukon, possibly a reflection of people returning to the community after working elsewhere for a number of years.

The population of Destruction Bay is too small for there to be detailed Census information.

Forty-seven percent of the population of Burwash Landing is female, below the Yukon-wide average of 50 percent. Destruction Bay has an even lower rate of female community members, with just 46 percent at the end of 2003.

The age distribution of Burwash Landing reflects the lack of work opportunities for local people, as well as movement out of the area by younger First Nation people, temporarily at least. Most people leave in order to look elsewhere for work in the money economy or to further their education. The proportion of people in the younger prime working ages of 25 to 44 years is 29 percent of the total. This is lower than the overall Yukon average of 31 percent for that age group. Burwash Landing also has a smaller proportion of children or youth; just 13 percent of the population are aged 14 years or under, and a further 5 percent are in the 15-to-24 age group.



Older people are over-represented in Burwash Landing in comparison with the Yukon average: 35 percent were aged 45 to 64 and a further 17 percent were over 65 years of age in 2003. This is a further indication that working-age people have been leaving the community, while the elders remain.

Destruction Bay also has few young people in the population: just 5 percent aged 14 or under and another 7 percent aged 15 to 24. The largest segment (46 percent) of the Destruction Bay population is 45 to 64 years of age. The population count at the end of 2003 showed that 7 percent were over the age of 65.

FIRST NATIONS

The Burwash Landing/Destruction Bay area is the home of the Southern Tutchone people of the Kluane First Nation (KFN). The Southern Tutchone belong to the Athapaskan language family. For thousands of years, the Southern Tutchone people have lived throughout the Kluane region, hunting, fishing and gathering food. The present location of Burwash Landing was used as a summer camp. After a trading post was built in the early 1900s, the First Nations people settled closer to the trading post and began to live a less nomadic life. The site was made the administrative centre for the Kluane First Nation after the Alaska Highway was built.

The establishment of Kluane National Park and Tachal Region in the southwest corner of the Yukon Territory, bordered by Kluane Lake and the Alaska and Haines highways, prohibited the hunting and fishing rights of the First Nations people. Left with only a narrow margin along the western shores of Kluane Lake, the people lost much

of their hunting and trapping livelihood. They were forced to turn to other areas and to rely increasingly on fishing to make a living.

Today, the Kluane First Nation people of Burwash Landing carry on much of the traditional way of life of their ancestors. They have been active in reviving their language, culture, and traditions, and in passing this knowledge on to their children. Education has been a priority of the First Nation. Secondary and post-secondary education for members of the First Nation is actively supported and promoted. The KFN has a number of university graduates, and Burwash Landing was the site of the first First-Nation-run school in the Yukon. The Kluane First Nation provides services to its membership through its health and social department, as well as education, economic development, lands, culture, resources, and capital projects programs. The Kluane First Nation also provides housing and municipal services to its membership.

In 2004 the Kluane First Nation reported a membership of 206, close to 120 of whom live in other communities.

The Kluane First Nation has signed their land claims and self-government agreements, which came into effect in February 2004. The First Nation is working on implementing their Final Agreement as they increasingly take on the responsibilities of a self-governing nation. The leadership of the First Nation has been active in the Council of Yukon First Nations and other Yukon-wide and national bodies.

THE ECONOMY

The economy of Burwash Landing is essentially a traditional subsistence economy; hunting and fishing supply about 60 to 80 percent of the residents' food needs. Another traditional activity, trapping, has declined due to low fur prices.

The First Nation administration provides most employment. The Kluane First Nation also owns the Dalan campground. Much employment is seasonal and depends on the tourist and construction season. Some people find work in the summer providing services to tourists visiting Kluane National Park or travelling the Alaska Highway. The Kluane Museum of Natural History is the community's best-known tourist attraction and a source of some summer employment. It features an excellent wildlife display, fossils, and a gift shop with a large selection of local First Nation handicrafts. A resort/hotel, restaurant and store in the area offer services for travelers.

The school and community health centre provide some employment at Destruction Bay. In addition, there are services for travelers on the Highway. The Yukon government highway maintenance camp employs people year-round.

Although the Alaska Highway is open year-round, traffic drops off outside the prime tourist season and some businesses close from October to May.

Many people move away from Burwash Landing in order to look for work or to continue their education.

WORK

About 83 percent of Burwash Landing's adult population (those 15 years of age and over) reported that they were involved in the formal labour market at the time of the 2001 Census. This is about the same as the rate for the Yukon overall. There is a limited money economy in the community, but those adults living in the community still work, even if in seasonal jobs. Because of the small number of residents in the community, the Census did not report on unemployment. Other information, however, points to the lack of year-round jobs.

The 2001 Census provided limited details about work characteristics for people living in Destruction Bay. The proportion of the adult population saying they were active in the labour market was high —close to 90 percent — reflecting the fact that there is work at the school and at the health centre. There is also highway maintenance work with the Yukon government.

In both communities, the number of people claiming employment insurance is too small to report.

As noted, the Burwash Landing population is too small to permit Census-based information on whether work is full-time, full year, or predominantly part-time. Some First Nations people find longer-term employment with the First Nation administration. Many others are only able to find summer jobs providing tourist services or on small local construction and maintenance projects. Some community residents have found work on the Shakwak Project (reconstruction of the Alaska Highway).

The 2001 Census reported no information on earnings for people living in Burwash Landing or Destruction Bay.

A few people reported that they were self-employed.

With so few people working in Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay, occupation information is very limited. Some work in management and administration fields with the Kluane First Nation. Others work on services for First Nations people. Some people work as teachers or nurses at Destruction Bay.

Commercial services for tourists and travelers provide work in sales, accommodation, and food service occupations, and some people find work in maintenance fields.

EDUCATION

The 2001 Census provides information about levels of education completed for Burwash Landing only. Well over half of the community's population aged 20 years or older had taken some non-university education or training after leaving school; 25 percent of the 20-plus population said that their highest level of education was some secondary school. Others reported that they had completed Grade 9 or less.

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

There appears to be little on the horizon to change the economic profiles of Burwash Landing or Destruction Bay. Tourist travel is expected to increase as a result of efforts to expand tourism across the Yukon. Developing more activities, especially in the areas of adventure, cultural, and environmental tourism, could also boost tourist numbers. The communities' location close to Kluane National Park offers some potential that tourism developments will increase traffic. Further tourism-related services could be developed locally, but the bulk of work opportunities will still be seasonal.

Education and communication skills are increasingly important in attracting tourists and giving them good service. It will be important to look at ways to use local knowledge of the Burwash Landing area to provide guiding services, and to build on traditions, arts and crafts to interest tourists. Older people with an interest in a range of cultural activities are a growing sector in tourism, and these people demand a high level of services.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Kluane Lake School in Destruction Bay serves both Destruction Bay and Burwash Landing. Burwash students travel to school by private vehicle. The school offers kindergarten to Grade 8; students can complete secondary school in Haines Junction or Whitehorse. Some students board in the larger communities, and others move with their families.

A community centre in Burwash Landing has a recreation hall for community events, weight room, common room, volunteer library, basketball court, skating rink and offices.

There is a library in Burwash and a volunteer library in Destruction Bay.

Destruction Bay has a community health centre staffed by a nurse practitioner. The health centre operates a daily clinic and provides community health services. The nurse practitioner also provides services to the Burwash Landing health centre, running a clinic three days a week. Emergency services are provided from the Destruction Bay health centre.

The Kluane First Nation delivers social assistance, elder care, and home care services to its members.

Daycare services are available in Burwash Landing.

The Yukon government provides social worker services to Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay from Haines Junction. The RCMP serves Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay from the Haines Junction detachment. Probation officer and native courtworker services are provided from Whitehorse.

The Kluane First Nation provides housing to its membership and administers community infrastructure such as water, sewer, local road maintenance, and community recreation, in Burwash Landing. There

is a Roman Catholic church in Burwash Landing, with a small museum attached.

Burwash Landing has a new fire hall. The fire service is run by volunteers who have a fire truck and access to well water.

Diesel generators provide electricity.

Mail is delivered to the communities three times a week, and both Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay have post offices.

The TD Canada Trust bank is located in the Kluane First Nation administration building and is open Monday and Friday.

Road access is by an all-weather paved road, the Alaska Highway. From Burwash to Whitehorse is 285 km, or a four-hour drive. Haines Junction is 127 km from Burwash Landing. Destruction Bay is 19 km closer to both of the larger communities.

An airstrip is located one km from Burwash Landing.

Duke River Trading, located in Burwash Landing, is a general store carrying mostly groceries. The store also sells souvenirs, provides laundry facilities, and operates an RV park with full hook-up and showers.

Burwash Landing Resort provides hotel/motel accommodation, camping, RV park with hook-up, restaurant, and lounge. Burwash Landing also has a cafeteria that caters to bus tours.

Camping facilities are offered at the Dalan Campground.

A service station is located on the highway.

In Destruction Bay, Sejah's Services and RV Park and the Talbot Arms Motel offer a range of accommodation, RV parking, restaurants, laundromat services, a general store, and a service station.

Haines Junction Price Survey

October 2003	*Whitehorse = 100*
Total Survey Items	109.4
Meat	100.2
Dairy/Eggs	105.6
Fruit/Veg.	109.9
Bread/Cereal	111.1
Other Foods	112.8
Household Operations	100.3
Health & Personal Care	144.9
Gasoline	106.4
Cigarettes	105.9

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

Internet and email access, fax service, and photocopying are available for a small fee at the Kluane First Nation office in Burwash Landing. Hall rental for meetings is also available for a fee. Other access to fax services is at the Duke River Trading Store and Burwash Landing Resort.

The Burwash Landing Resort and Sejah's Services are open for the summer season. Year-round business accommodation is available at the Talbot Arms Motel in Destruction Bay.

COST OF LIVING

Cost of living information is not available for Burwash Landing or Destruction Bay. However, since many people in both communities buy the bulk of their supplies in Haines Junction or Whitehorse, information about the cost of living in Haines Junction provides a general guide to costs in Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay.

In 2001 there were 35 dwellings in Burwash Landing. This is after a fire in 1999 that destroyed several buildings. In Destruction Bay there are

15 houses, according to the 2001 Census. Most housing is privately owned and several are rental units.

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay are home by choice to many people and for many reasons. The Kluane First Nation people made Burwash Landing their home. Others who moved to Burwash Landing or Destruction Bay really enjoy the life they lead in the community. Many like the small community; they are comfortable in small communities and like the feeling of being part of the community. Some have stable employment that keeps them in the community.

Since the winters are long and cold, indoor activities are important in keeping busy. Many people like reading, baking, carving, and sewing. Some First Nation women still do bead work and sew with native tanned hides. They make moccasins, hats and many other small handicrafts like necklaces and hairpins. Some make baskets from birchbark.

Outdoor activities in the winter include snowmobiling, skating and ice-fishing.

In spring and summer, when the weather is warmer and the days are longer, people spend a lot of time outdoors. Some residents plant their gardens or greenhouses. With a lake right at the community, fishing is popular. Some people go sport fishing, some fish commercially, and others operate fishing trips for a fee. Camping is another popular activity for many. In August people go hunting. In late summer many people pick wild blueberries, cranberries, mossberries and strawberries.

Summer is also the time when people work at summer seasonal jobs, and this is a busy time for private businesses.

CLIMATE

During winter the temperatures range from mild to very cold. Typical monthly averages in January show maximums at minus 16 Celsius and minimums at minus 28 C, although the temperature can fall to minus 46 C during a very cold spell. The wind often blows from the north in the winter and can create severe wind chills. Occasionally there are chinooks from the south and the temperature can rise to plus 1 C. Summer months are mild, generally around 17–19 C in the daytime. Winds are from the south in the summer. July is often a particularly rainy month, but rain can fall at any time.

The communities of Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay can also be very windy, with winds regularly gusting to 55 km per hour.

MORE INFORMATION

The Kluane First Nation can be contacted by phone (867) 841-4274 or fax (867) 841-5900.

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/

Details about the Kluane First Nation can be found in a book, *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*, published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1998. Information is also available on-line at http://sdiprod2.inac.gc.ca/FNProfiles/

For further information about the Kluane First Nation, go to http://www.yfnta.org/

For information on occupations in the Yukon, working conditions, and the Yukon economy, see *Yukon WorkFutures* at http://www.workfutures.yk.ca

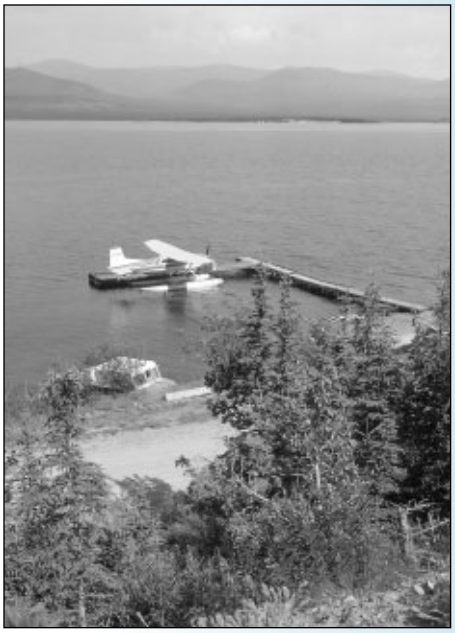
For information about the local environment, see the *Yukon State of the Environment Report* at http://www.taiga.net/yukonsoe/

For general information about the Yukon, see Yukon Fact Sheets at http://www.gov.yk.ca/facts/

The Strategis Business Map has some community information, links to Statistics Canada community information and a map system: http://commercecan.ic.gc.ca/scdt/bizmap/interface2.nsf/engdocBasic/0.html

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics has annual economic and statistical reviews at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/stats/index.html

For current job listings throughout the Yukon, check the Yukon office of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml



The Communities of Carcross and Tagish

At the northern tip of Bennett Lake, on the old Klondike Gold Rush trail, lies the village of Carcross. The settlement of Tagish is about 30 kilometres east of Carcross, and farther downstream on the chain of lakes that feed into the Yukon River. Carcross is the larger of the two communities. It lies 74 km south of Whitehorse on the Klondike Highway and about 110 km north of Skagway, Alaska. Tagish, located off the main highways, is a mix of year-round residents and part-year cottage residents.

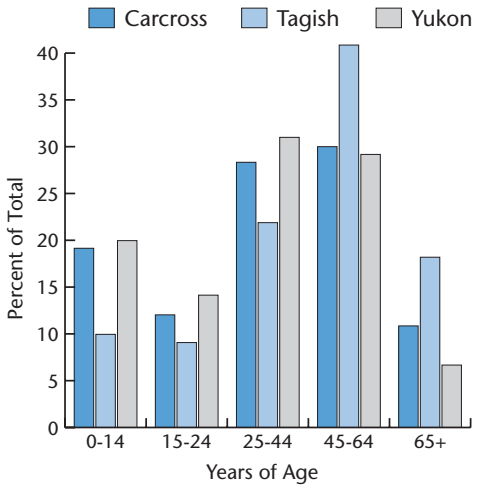
Once a hunting and fishing camp for Inland Tlingit and Tagish people, Carcross became a key stopover and supply centre during the Klondike Gold Rush. The White Pass and Yukon railway, extending from Skagway through Carcross to Whitehorse, was completed in 1900. With the completion of the railway, Carcross became a major transportation centre. The Carcross railway station is designated under the federal Railway Station Protection Act. Although Carcross still provides some highway services for the South Klondike Highway, tourism has taken over as a mainstay of the local economy.

Tagish attracts tourists and cottage owners from Whitehorse. In addition, many people live in the community and commute into Carcross or Whitehorse for work.

Total Population

year	*Carcross*	*Tagish*
2003	399	181
2002	395	179
2001	403	166
2000	417	166
1999	431	161
1998	423	158
1997	433	145
1996	430	133
1995	421	126
1994	418	125
1993	400	113

Age Distribution



PEOPLE

The population of Carcross averaged 399 in 2003. Although this is about the same as in the past couple of years and the same as it was in 1993, it reflects a drop from the 430 levels of the late 1990s. The population of Tagish averaged 181 in 2003. Tagish has experienced consistent population growth due to its increasing attraction as a place to live year-round. Carcross is also increasingly a commuting community.

People belonging to the Carcross/Tagish First Nation make up about half of the total population of these communities, more so in Carcross and less in Tagish. This compares with a 23-percent representation of First Nations people in the overall Yukon population.

The 2003 Census showed that most people in Carcross and Tagish had lived in their communities or elsewhere

in the Yukon since 1996 or earlier. About 13 percent said they had come from outside the Yukon between 1996 and 2003, compared to 16 percent Yukon-wide.

Young people aged 15 to 24 are 12 percent of the Carcross population, close to the 14-percent proportion for the overall Yukon population. The proportion of children aged 14 or younger is 19 percent, similar to the Yukon average. People over 65 make up 11 percent of the population, above the Yukon average. The major difference between the age structure of the Carcross population and that of the Yukon-wide population is the smaller proportion of people in the 25-to-44 age group; only 28 percent fall into this range in Carcross compared with 31 percent for the Yukon.

The Tagish population is older than the Yukon average; 18 percent of people are over 65 years of age, compared to only 5 percent of the total Yukon population. This reflects some movement of older people into the community. Those aged 45 to 64 make up 34 percent of the Tagish population, compared to 29 percent of the Yukon population.

About 50 percent of the people in Carcross and 51 percent in Tagish are female, close to the female representation in the total Yukon population.

FIRST NATIONS

The community of Carcross is the home of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation. The original inhabitants of this area are the Tagish people, who belong to the Tagish linguistic grouping of the Athapaskan language family. The area also became the home of some of the Tlingit traders from Southeast Alaska who ventured into the interior of the Yukon for trade purposes, perhaps dating back 200 to 300 years. Today many of the people are descendants of both Tagish and Tlingit. Calculations generated by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 2004 for their internal purposes estimated the registered population of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation at 569, many of whom live outside the two communities. First Nations' calculations of their population numbers may differ from Government of Canada figures and may include registered beneficiaries, non-beneficiary citizens and others. The Carcross/Tagish First Nation is affiliated with the Tlingit Tribal Council, the Daxa Nation.

The current site of Carcross was a seasonal stopping place in early times. It is remembered as an area where people came during the caribou herd seasonal migrations. The area is also recalled in the legend "Game Mother" as the very important site where the many different animal species were born. The Tlingit clans who settled in this area brought with them their social organizational systems, which continue to be a strong aspect of the Tagish/Tlingit culture. The potlatch also remains a very important institution that survived despite its ban by the federal government from the 1890s to 1951. The Tagish and Tlingit people enjoyed the abundance of fish present in the numerous lakes of the Southern Lakes system. The Tagish people traded with the Tlingit and often acted as intermediaries between the coast and interior. Many Tagish First Nation people were packers for the prospectors on the Chilkoot Trail during the gold rush.

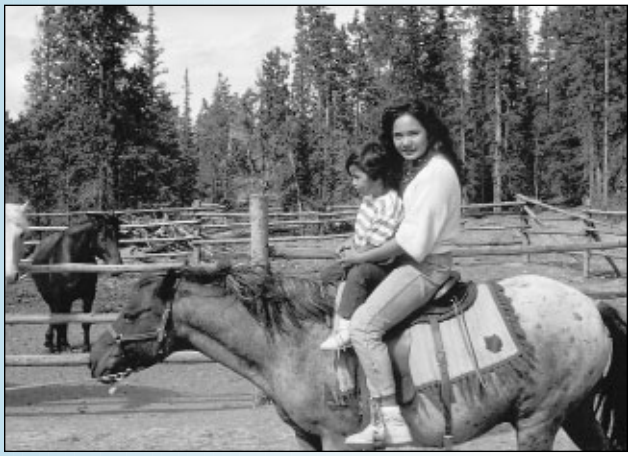
The town of Carcross is not the traditional village site of the Tagish people; the original village site was in Tagish. Carcross was in fact the

seasonal hunting grounds for caribou. Carcross was established during the 1898 gold rush when the White Pass Railway was built. For over 60 years First Nations children from across the Yukon attended residential school in Carcross, which was established by the Anglican Church.

The Carcross/Tagish First Nation has not yet ratified their land claims or self-government agreements with the federal and Yukon governments. Their Final Agreement, like all other Yukon First Nation Final Agreements, will incorporate the Umbrella Final Agreement and will add specific provisions that are unique to the First Nation and its people. This First Nation has been active in teaching children their language and culture through school programs, and has formed one of the most famous dance and singing groups in the Yukon.

THE ECONOMY

For many years, Carcross was a vibrant transportation centre for road, rail, and water links. The community also had its own mining boom. Now Carcross relies on tourism, based on its location on the South Klondike Highway. This popular route links Whitehorse with Skagway, Alaska. Employment in Carcross and Tagish is based mainly on summer tourism, although there is some skiing and adventure tourism in the off-season. A certified organic farm just outside Carcross supplies vegetables, herbs and eggs to stores and individuals in Carcross and Whitehorse.



Government services for the local population and administration of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation are also important in the economy. Other people are employed in education and health services.

Some Tagish people work outside the community, often commuting to Whitehorse.

Carcross/Tagish First Nation people also participate in traditional activities, and some supply a part of their food needs through hunting and fishing.

WORK

For those 15 or older the proportion involved in the formal labour market is substantially lower than the Yukon average. This reflects both the limited economy of Carcross and Tagish and the older-than-average population. In 2003, 80 percent of Yukon adults said they were active in the labour market. In both Carcross and Tagish, this proportion was about 60 percent. Unemployment is also significantly higher in both Carcross and Tagish than the Yukon average. In the 2001 Census, about 20-25 percent of the workforce said they were unemployed. This was about double the Yukon-wide rate of 12 percent. Men reported even higher unemployment. The unemployment situation in these communities did improve slightly from 1996 to 2001.An average of 38 people claimed employment insurance (formerly unemployment insurance) in Carcross in 2003, and a further 20 in Tagish. The number of community people claiming employment insurance has remained fairly steady for a few years. The relatively high number of employment insurance claimants in Carcross and Tagish is a further indication of the seasonal nature of work there.

The communities' young people, those aged 15 to 24, are less likely to be involved in the labour market than are youth in the Yukon as a whole. Just under half of Carcross youth said they were in the formal labour market (compared to 68 percent Yukon-wide); the majority say they are unemployed. This indicates that few jobs are available in the two communities for young people.

Although the 2001 Census provided no measure of full-time, full year work for the communities of Carcross and Tagish, other information clearly indicates that much of the work in the communities is related to tourism, and therefore seasonal.

Information on self-employment, drawn from the Census, shows that a similar proportion of people in Carcross and Tagish are self-employed and that this self-employment is close to the Yukon average.

Earnings information was not available from the 2001 Census.

In both communities, the largest occupational area is sales and service occupations linked to tourism; for example, food and accommodation service jobs. The First Nation is a large employer. Another consistent employment area is transportation and trades, which includes driving and construction or maintenance trades. Other than these groupings, the numbers reported in the Census are too small to indicate type of occupation. Some of these jobs are local; others are in Whitehorse and people commute to them.

EDUCATION

The 2001 Census showed that about 47 percent of Carcross and Tagish people aged 20 and over had taken some non-university post-secondary training. Although 10 percent had taken some university-level education, the numbers are too small to indicate how many had completed degrees. A further 27 percent listed secondary school (grades 9 and above) as their highest level of education. About 17 percent responded that their highest level of education was under Grade 9.

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTSS

Tourism is the primary area with potential for economic growth in Carcross. Work opportunities for local people could be increased by building on existing tourism activities and developing more winter activities to extend the season. An organization has been formed to promote tourism in the Southern lakes region, focusing on ecotourism and culture.

Carcross is located in an early and well-established mining area. There is currently little mining, although some exploration work is being carried out. Whether production starts up depends on several factors, including metal prices.

Employment opportunities are limited in the Carcross/Tagish area. There is a need to develop long-term work for local residents, including First Nations people. The Carcross-Tagish Development Corporation, the economic development arm of the First Nation, is currently planning

business development that it hopes will create employment opportunities. A multi-million-dollar resort complex near Carcross is being planned; if it proceeds, it will provide major employment opportunities.

Since tourism is a potential source of some jobs, tourism skills will be important. Good communication skills, small business management skills, and computer skills should not only support tourism development in the local communities but also enable people to find work in Whitehorse.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Education from kindergarten to Grade 9 is available at the Carcross School. Students go to Whitehorse to complete Grades 10 through 12.

Post-secondary education is provided through the Carcross Campus of Yukon College. The college offers adult basic education programs and works with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation to offer programs and courses with an emphasis on community development. These include early childhood development, computer training, tourism, employment preparation, small business, and art courses. Students contribute to community development projects like the publication of a newspaper to boost tourism. The campus also has videoconferencing capability and additional courses are available in the community through this technology.

The community health centre in Carcross provides health care. It offers daily service and is staffed by two nurses; a nurse provides service once a week in Tagish. The health centre also supplies 24-hour emergency service. A volunteer ambulance service in Carcross also covers Tagish and the surrounding area.

YTG Health and Social Services provides social worker services in Carcross.

The Carcross/Tagish First Nation offers social services to members who live in the Carcross and Tagish area. Services include social assistance, in-home care, counseling, and referral. There is a daycare centre. Native courtworker services are provided out of Whitehorse.

Policing is provided by the RCMP detachment, staffed by a corporal and two constables, with secretarial support. Probation officer services are provided out of Whitehorse.

The Carcross fire department has a chief and ten volunteer firefighters. Tagish has its own volunteer fire department.

The Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd. supplies hydroelectric power from the Whitehorse dam.

Recreation facilities in Carcross include a community club, a visitor reception centre at the railway station, seasonal swimming pool, ski trails, a climbing wall, hockey rink and library.

Recreation facilities in Tagish include a community club, library, hockey rink, and baseball diamond.

The Southern Lakes Justice Committee offers an alternative to existing justice-related services. Its volunteer members and one employee run a variety of restorative justice programs that provide both victims and offenders different options within the existing criminal justice system.

Carcross is home to radio station CIKO-FM, which is operated entirely by volunteers and housed in the community school.

Carcross has a combined gas station, fast food restaurant, and grocery store that is open year-round. Alcohol, propane, video rentals, and banking services (via an ATM) are available at the same location. RV facilities are available from May to September. The Caribou Hotel, one of the oldest operating hotels in the Yukon, has both a bar and restaurant. The restaurant is normally open only during the summer season. Other seasonal businesses sell a variety of goods, including locally-made items, to tourists.

Summer accommodation is available at a lodge a few miles north of Carcross. A number of B&B establishments cater to summer traffic. Other small businesses, such as a bakery and restaurant, are open during the summer months.

Gas, video rentals, postal services, and convenience-store groceries are available in Tagish, although residents tend to buy most of their groceries in Whitehorse. RV facilities are available during the summer. Other accommodations, including B & B establishments, cater to summer visitors. Tagish boasts a marina and a local tourism operator who specializes in winter dog-mushing trips.

Carcross has a small community airstrip.

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

Fax and photocopying facilities are not available to the public in Carcross on a fee-for-service basis. Tagish residents have access to these and other business-related services through the Tagish Community Association.

Carcross has regular landline telephone service. Tagish relies entirely on a cellular phone system, which was upgraded in 2004 and which can be expensive.

Local high-speed Internet service exists in Carcross, but the limited number of ports available to users in the community sometimes makes access to the Internet difficult. Many agencies have installed dedicated lines to ensure good Internet access.

The Southern Lakes Chamber of Commerce is a good source of information about the business climate and business opportunities within the Southern Lakes area.

COST OF LIVING

Although information about specific costs in Carcross and Tagish is not available, both communities are close enough to Whitehorse that people can do much of their purchasing there. This makes the cost of living in the two communities only slightly higher than in Whitehorse.

The 2001 Census reported 100 occupied private dwellings in Carcross and a further 95 in Tagish. Information from the 2001 Census suggests that houses in the Village of Carcross are valued, on average, at $104,000 and that similar houses in Tagish are valued at about $96,000. Most houses have two bedrooms. According to local information, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation has a little more than 100 houses under its administration.

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

The Carcross/Tagish area is noted for its outstanding natural beauty. The rivers, lakes and mountains provide incredible opportunities for many outdoors enthusiasts: hikers, skiers, recreational boaters, fishers, hunters, windsurfers, and more. At the same time, the close proximity of the Yukon's capital, Whitehorse, means that the benefits of a city are just a short drive away. Similarly, the coastal community of Skagway, Alaska, is only a 90-minute drive south of Carcross across the famous White Pass.

Although both Carcross and Tagish share problems common to many small northern communities, people tend to look out for each other. Volunteer organizations thrive in both communities, a testament to the commitment residents are prepared to make to the place they call home.

CLIMATE

Carcross and Tagish are very close to Whitehorse. While no independent climate information is available for the smaller communities, climate information for Whitehorse gives a fairly good indication of general weather conditions. In addition, Carcross is influenced by coastal weather, which results in milder winter weather than Whitehorse and generally a little less snow.

Over the past few decades, the daily temperature in January in Whitehorse reached daytime highs of minus 13 Celsius, dropping to minus 22 C overnight. In July the daily temperatures typically reach a high of 20 C and a low at night of about 8 C. The record high for Whitehorse was 27.5 degrees, and the record low was minus 47 degrees. Whitehorse has a relatively dry climate. Annual precipitation over several decades averaged close to 270 millimetres, including 160 to 165 mm of rain and 145 centimetres of snow.

MORE INFORMATION

Details about the Carcross/Tagish First Nation can be found in a book, *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*, published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1998. Information is also available on-line at http://sdiprod2.inac.gc.ca/FNProfiles/

For further information about the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, go to http://www.ctfn.ca

For information about the Carcross Community Campus of Yukon College, go to http://yukoncollege.yk.ca/campuses/

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca

For information on occupations in the Yukon, working conditions, and the Yukon economy, see *Yukon WorkFutures* at http://www.workfutures.yk.ca

For information about the local environment, see the *Yukon State of the Environment Report* at http://www.taiga.net/yukonsoe/

For general information about the Yukon, see Yukon Fact Sheets at http://www.gov.yk.ca/facts/

The Strategis Business Map has some community information, links to Statistics Canada community information and a map system: http://commercecan.ic.gc.ca/scdt/bizmap/interface2.nsf/engdocBasic/0.html

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics has annual economic and statistical reviews at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/stats/index.html

For current job listings throughout the Yukon, check the Yukon office of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml

For information about tourism in the Carcross region, go to http://www.southernlakesyukon.com

The Community of Carmacks

Carmacks has served many functions over the years, including campsite, trading post and coal-mining community. Today it is a highway service centre and the home of the Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation. Carmacks is located at the confluence of the Yukon and Nordenskiold rivers. It lies 180 kilometres north of Whitehorse on the Klondike Highway, near its junction with the Robert Campbell Highway.

Originally, the Carmacks area was part of the hunting and fishing territory of the Northern Tutchone people. The site of Carmacks was an important trading stop on the river trade routes of the Coastal Tlingit and the Northern and Interior Athapaskan. The modern community is named for George Carmack, one of the discoverers of gold in the Klondike. In 1893, three years before the gold discovery, Carmack found a seam of coal at Tantalus Butte, at the mouth of the Nordenskiold. He built a cabin that grew into a trading post — Carmack's Post.

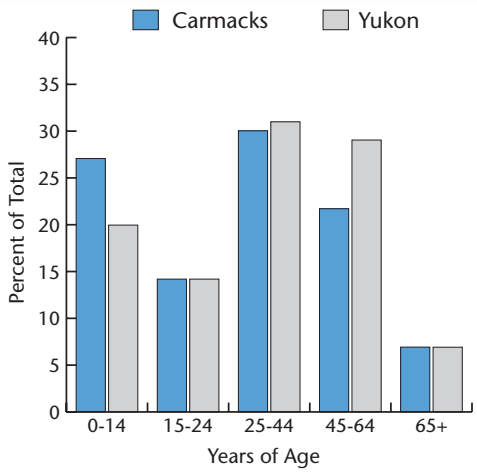
During the Klondike Gold Rush, the site became a stop on the way to Dawson; later, it was a stop on the Overland Trail between Dawson and Whitehorse. When the first leg of the Klondike Highway was completed in 1950, Carmacks became a major service centre. At that time the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation people were forced to take up permanent residence on the north bank of the Yukon River, where most still live. The business section of Carmacks is on the south bank.

Total Population

year	*population*
2003	411
2002	416
2001	413
2000	428
1999	444
1998	461
1997	476
1996	466
1995	477
1994	469
1993	477

PEOPLE

Age Distribution



In 2001, the Carmacks population averaged 411, a steady decline since the mid-1990s, when the population had been at close to 470 for several years.

In 2001 the Census indicated that almost 80 percent of the people living in Carmacks lived there five years earlier. About 9 percent of the 2001 population had come from outside the Yukon at some time in the 1996 to 2001 period.

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation makes up almost 70 percent of the total population of Carmacks. This is significantly higher than the 23-percent representation of First Nations in the Yukon population.

Carmacks has a very young population in comparison to the Yukon as a whole: 27 percent of community residents are children aged 14 or younger, compared to the Yukon

average of 20 percent. A further 14 percent of the Carmacks population is in the 15-to-25 age group, the same proportion as for the Yukon as a whole.

The prime working age population in Carmacks is similar to the Yukon average, reflecting some movement of adults to seek work elsewhere for at least part of the time. In Carmacks, 30 percent of people are in the 25-to-44-age range, and 11 percent in the 45-to-64 range. In comparison, the Yukon overall has 31 percent in the 25-to-44 age group and 29 percent in the 45-to-64 age group. People over 65 make up 7 percent of the Carmacks population, the same as the Yukon average.

At the end of 2003, 50 percent of the Carmacks population was female, the same as the Yukon-wide percentage.

FIRST NATIONS

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation is affiliated with the Northern Tutchone Council. As of April 2004, the registered population as reported by the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation was 621, almost half of whom live outside the community.

The Little Salmon/Carmacks people are Northern Tutchone, part of the Athapaskan language grouping. They were and remain people who are very much reliant on the Yukon River and its rich salmon resources.

The Northern Tutchone people of this area are closely related to the Northern Tutchone groups of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Selkirk First Nation. They are also closely related to the Southern Tutchone people of nearby Champagne, Klukshu, and Aishihik, with whom they traded and often intermarried. A system of land and water routes connected all of these adjacent areas.

Carmacks was an important stopover on the Yukon River for people travelling to the Dawson goldfields during the gold rush of 1898. Later it became an important refueling place for the riverboats that traveled between Whitehorse and Dawson City. Many First Nations people worked in wood-camps during the sternwheeler era.

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation completed their land claims negotiations, and signed their land claims and self-government agreements in July 1997. Their Final Agreement follows the structure of the Umbrella Final Agreement but contains provisions unique to them. An example of a specific provision is the Nordenskiold Wetland Special Management Area. The Little Salmon/Carmacks traditional territory is rich in renewable and non-renewable resources, and the First Nation is establishing and building co-management regimes with other levels of government. The First Nation is committed to teaching their young people about traditional law and traditional knowledge and to developing employment opportunities that reflect the old ways and values of life on the land.

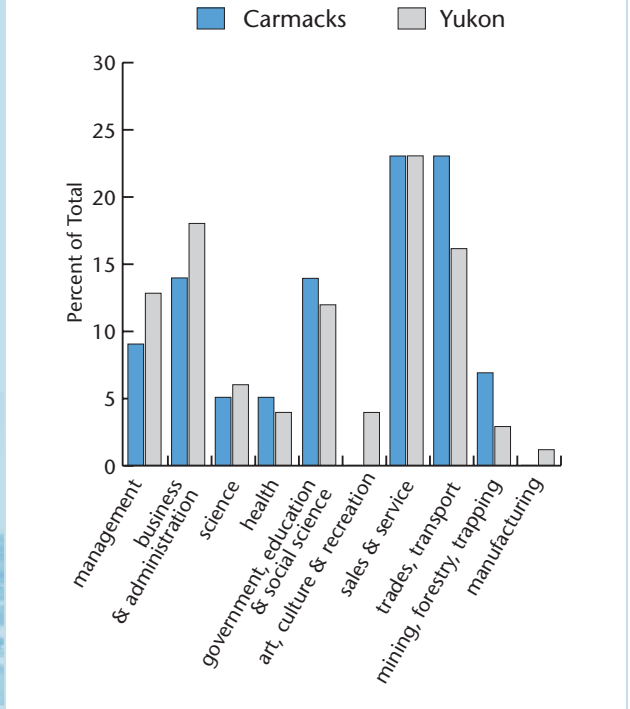
THE ECONOMY

The Carmacks economy is fairly limited in range. Carmacks is a service centre on the Klondike Highway. In addition, there is government activity in the fields of local services and administration of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation's activities. Tourism provides some summer jobs. Carmacks is located in a mineral-rich area, and seasonal employment has come from mining exploration, as well as from providing services to exploration crews. The amount of employment available from this source depends on the highly variable economic state of the mining industry.

Government services, including education and health, account for over half of the jobs in the community. The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation employs people in administration and in providing services such as elder care. The First Nation also operates an interpretive centre. Other government services employees work for the Yukon government or with the Carmacks municipal government.

Tourism is a sizeable part of local economic activity. About 7 percent of employment is found in accommodation and food services, just below the Yukon average. Other services, largely recreation, provide 5 percent of employment, a little higher than the Yukon share. Trade provides a further 5 percent, lower than the Yukon-wide share.

Employment Share by Occupation



Activity in primary industries, transportation, and construction amounts to a similar share as the Yukon average. Some industries employ so few people that the shares cannot be measured.

Traditional activities are important in the economy and lifestyle of First Nations people in Carmacks, and a significant proportion of residents hunt and fish to supply some of their families' food needs.

WORK

At the time of the 2001 Census, about 75 percent of adults in Carmacks, those aged 15 and over, reported that they were involved in the labour market. This is lower than the overall Yukon proportion of 80 percent. Reported unemployment, at almost 24 percent, was significantly higher than the 2001 Yukon average of 12 percent measured at the time of the Census. Both measures (involvement in the labour market and unemployment) reflect the small number of jobs, especially long-term jobs, in the community. The work situation is particularly weak for men living in Carmacks. They reported an unemployment rate of almost 35 percent, compared to the overall Yukon male unemployment rate of 14.5 percent at the time of the Census.

In 2001, more young people reported being active in the Carmacks labour market than in 1996. In 2001, about 70 percent of the

15-to-24 age group in Carmacks reported that they were in the labour market, compared to 68 percent across the Yukon.

On average in 2001, 44 individuals in Carmacks made claims for employment insurance payments. The number of people claiming employment insurance averaged above 30 for much of the 1990s, rising at the end of the decade.

Relatively little work in Carmacks is full-time and full year, reflecting the lack of long-term jobs and the seasonal nature of tourism, primary industry employment and mining exploration. The 2001 Census reported that people working full-time, full year in Carmacks accounted for only 29 percent of all workers, far lower than the 46 percent seen for the Yukon as a whole.

Self-employment, at 5 percent of all employment in Carmacks, is quite a bit lower than the Yukon average of 13 percent.

In 2001 the median income of all those in Carmacks over 15 years of age was about $17,500, lower than the Yukon median income of $26,500. Earnings also provided a smaller share of this income than it did on average in the Yukon.

Work in Carmacks leans towards occupations involved in government services and tourism. At the time of the 2001 Census, about 23 percent of total employment in the community was in sales and service occupations, including food preparation and service fields. This is about the same as in the Yukon as a whole. Management occupations in Carmacks (9 percent of total employment) and administration occupations (14 percent) reflect the importance of government work.

Government services work also employs people in occupations such as teaching, social work, or community work. The social sciences occupational field accounts for 14 percent of employment in Carmacks, compared to 12 percent Yukon-wide.

Mining, forestry, and trapping occupations have a 7-percent share of employment in Carmacks compared to an average of 3 percent for the Yukon. Construction and other trades, such as auto repair, along with transportation occupations, provide 23 percent of local employment. This is higher than the 16 percent found, on average, in the Yukon.

EDUCATION

Information reported in the 2001 Census shows that about 50 percent of Carmacks people aged 20 years and up have taken some non-university education or training after leaving school. About 16 percent have taken some university-level education. About half of the latter group had completed at least a bachelor-level degree. About 21 percent of those aged 20 and up said their highest level of education included some secondary school; 13 percent reported completion of Grade 9 or lower.

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Carmacks can expect to reap some benefit from tourism. The community is a stop on the Klondike Highway to Dawson City and could look to tourism growth along that historic route. Carmacks is also one of the few resupply stops on the increasingly popular Yukon River boating route from Whitehorse to Dawson. With growing offshore interest in Yukon wilderness, more people may come to the Yukon for longer stays. Carmacks could take advantage of this trend by developing adventure tourism and winter activities and by establishing a cultural presence to add to the existing history-related attractions. Providing high-quality services for older and more sophisticated tourists will also be important in increasing future tourism.

While all mining remains in the doldrums, an active mining area around Carmacks is being explored to some extent. A feasibility study has been completed for the Minto mine and a production decision is pending. It is a significant copper-silver porphyry deposit, with minor gold. Southwest of Carmacks, the Mount Nansen gold-silver mine is a former producer that is under active exploration.

Changing the higher-than-average unemployment pattern means tackling the issue of few long-term jobs. Employment and economic opportunities will increase as the First Nation assumes greater responsibility for providing programs and services to citizens and beneficiaries. Benefits will filter through the community as a whole in the form of new private enterprise and cottage-industry opportunities.

Both economic growth and expanding tourism activities in Carmacks will require workers who are able to create and run small businesses. The skills and knowledge that will be useful include basic financial skills and communication skills. Local or traditional knowledge will be important in producing crafts, educating and entertaining visitors, and providing interesting outdoor activities that encourage tourists to visit Carmacks or to stay longer in the community.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Kindergarten to Grade 12 is available at Tantalus School in Carmacks. The school has a gymnasium, library, and computer lab. Like all Yukon schools, the core curriculum (80 percent) follows the British Columbia Ministry of Education curriculum, and students are eligible to write B.C. departmental exams. Currently, a new school is to be built.

The Carmacks Campus of Yukon College provides adult education programs to the community. The local campus staff work closely with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation, developing and delivering training courses and programs designed to enhance local administrative capacity. Other programs at the campus include academic upgrading, employability skills, craft and small business, computer skills, first aid, accounting, pre-trades and trades, and youth employment training.

The Community Health Centre operates clinics from Monday to Friday and provides local health care. The centre also provides after-hours

emergency service and ambulance dispatch. Occasional dental clinics are offered by dentists from Whitehorse.

Policing is provided by an RCMP detachment with one sergeant and two constables.

Other community social services include a Yukon Government Health and Social Services social worker, a Yukon Housing Corporation part-time office, a safe house for women and children, and a daycare centre. The Yukon Family Services Association provides itinerant services out of Whitehorse. Probation services are also provided from Whitehorse.

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation offers social services to its members, including counseling, social assistance, adult care, and homecare. Native courtworker services are administered through the Northern Tutchone Council in Pelly Crossing.

The Carmacks municipal government and the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation provide municipal services.

Fire and ambulance services are provided by a volunteer service. There are two water tanks, one in town and one across the river in the First Nation settlement.

The Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd. supplies electric power by transmission line from the Whitehorse dam. There is a local auxiliary diesel generator.

Post office service and mail pick-up is available three times a week. Public local high-speed Internet DSL access is also offered in the community.

Banking services are available twice a week.

Public library services are available through the Carmacks Branch Library.

Road access to Whitehorse and Dawson City is by the paved Klondike Highway. Secondary road access is the Robert Campbell Highway, which goes to Faro and Ross River. Distance to Whitehorse is 175 km, generally a drive of two and a half hours.

Territorial Agent services are provided through the Yukon Housing office in Carmacks. These services include providing information and forms, accepting various applications and issuing licences and permits.

Forestry and land use services are provided through the Government of Yukon and the Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation administration office.

A small airstrip is located approximately 12 km north of town on the Robert Campbell Highway. The airstrip is only capable of handling small fixed-wing and helicopter traffic. A separate helicopter pad is located on the outskirts of town. Floatplane traffic is accommodated on three lakes near the community, and at a dock on the Yukon River across from the RCMP detachment. Formalized service for this traffic is not available.

Carmacks has one B & B business, a hotel/restaurant/general store complex, and a second restaurant that offer year-round services. Services at the hotel complex include accommodation, restaurant, laundromat, bar and off-sales, general store with grocery/bakery/limited

hardware/video rental departments, and a gas bar. The town also has two full-service gas stations that supply diesel, propane, and mechanical services year-round. Several Whitehorse-based companies offer heating oil delivery service.

Trucking and heavy equipment services are available through the First Nation economic development corporation and several private companies.

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

Public access to fax and photocopying services may be obtained year-round through the town municipal office and the local Yukon College campus. The hotel complex also offers these services to its customers.

Internet and email access are available through the local library or the Yukon College campus. The college has high-speed access that is frequently available to the public, and the library also offers high-speed access.

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation administration office, Yukon College, and the library all offer rooms year-round for small or medium-sized meetings. The college campus provides computers and audio-conferencing access as well. The municipal Community Hall and the First Nation Heritage Hall both have the capacity to host large functions on a year-round basis.

The completion of a new multipurpose recreational complex in 2001 provides increased meeting space and allows the community to host large-scale sports events.

Cellular phone access is unavailable in Carmacks.

COST OF LIVING

Although Carmacks is relatively close to Whitehorse and on a major highway, prices in all categories are higher than equivalent prices in Whitehorse. On average, it costs almost 9 percent more to live in Carmacks than in Whitehorse.

In 2001, according to the Census, there were 160 occupied dwellings in Carmacks. The average value was $106,000 for a two- to three-bedroom house. Rental housing cost, on average, just over $600 a month in 2001. The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation management note that they administer 108 houses for the use of First Nation members.

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

Carmacks is a very diverse community. For the most part, its residents enjoy the rural wilderness lifestyle and all that it has to offer. Hunting, fishing, trapping, berry-picking, hiking, snowmobiling and the “great outdoors” are more than just pastimes. They are a way of life.

The Carmacks municipal government employs a full-time recreation director to provide a wide variety of recreational activities for youth, and to coordinate with other local committees and organizations to host numerous community and family gatherings.

The community has a heated swimming pool for summer use, a multipurpose outdoor skateboard/rollerblade/ice rink, golf course, hiking trails, three-lane curling rink, cross-country ski and snowmobile trails, historical sites and buildings, archaeological sites, and First Nation interpretive centre and traditional craft shop.

Carmacks Price Survey

October 2003	*Whitehorse = 100*
Total Survey Items	108.7
Meat	96.4
Dairy/Eggs	112.8
Fruit/Veg.	111.9
Bread/Cereal	110.8
Other Foods	116.5
Household Operations	103.3
Health & Personal Care	n.a.
Gasoline	106.4
Cigarettes	111.2

CLIMATE

Carmacks is located at the southern edge of the central Yukon region that tends to experience extremes in temperature. Specific climate information for Carmacks is not available. Because of the Yukon's mountainous terrain, weather varies widely in the Territory, even between communities located relatively near each other. Nevertheless, climate information for Faro, 180 km to the east on the Robert Campbell Highway, is probably the best available indicator of the Carmacks climate.

Over the past few decades Faro's typical January weather was a daytime high of minus 17 degrees Celsius, dropping to minus 26 C at night. Temperatures in July and August typically reached a daily maximum of 18 C to 21 C, with night-time temperatures of 6 C to 9 C. Total annual precipitation in Faro over the 1971-to-2000 period averaged 316 mm, with a little more than two-thirds falling as rain and about 110 cm as snow.

MORE INFORMATION

The students of Tantalus School have placed information about Carmacks on the Internet at http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/tantalus/index.html

The Village of Carmacks municipal government can be reached at Box 113, Carmacks YT, Y0B 1C0, Phone: (867) 863-6271, Fax: (867) 863-6606.

For information about the Carmacks Campus of Yukon College, check http://yukoncollege.yk.ca/campuses/carmacks.html

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/

Details about the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation can be found in a book, *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*, published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1998. Information is also available on-line at http://sdiprod2.inac.gc.ca/FNProfiles/

For more information about the First Nation, go to http://www.lscfn.ca

For information on occupations in the Yukon, working conditions, and the Yukon economy, see *Yukon WorkFutures* at http://www.workfutures.yk.ca

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The Community of Dawson City

A century ago, Dawson City was a gold rush boomtown. Today the community of Dawson City is still a gold mining centre, although the main economic activity is tourism, based on the community's colourful past and historical importance. Dawson is also well known as the home of a growing arts community. Dawson is located about 536 kilometres northwest of Whitehorse, at the end of the Klondike Highway.

The town of Dawson City lies within the traditional lands of the Hän people, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The Hän called the site where the town now stands, at the confluence of the Yukon and Klondike rivers, "Tr'ochëk" and used it as a seasonal fishing camp.

The discovery of gold in the Klondike valley in 1896 led to the establishment of a tiny community where the Klondike River flows into the Yukon. By the summer of 1898, Dawson City was the largest city in Canada west of Winnipeg, with a population of 40,000 in the immediate area. Within months, Dawson boasted telephones, running water, steam heat, steamboat services, and a wide range of elaborate hotels, theatres and dance halls.

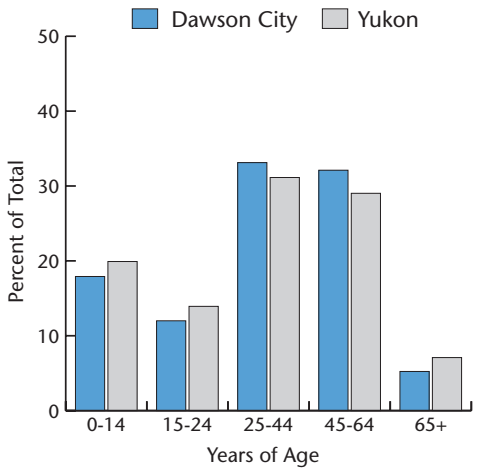
A year later the gold rush was over; 8,000 people left town in a single summer. By 1902 Dawson City's population had dropped to 5,000, declining further in the early part of the 20th century.

In the early 1960s Dawson City was declared a National Historic Site. Preservation of buildings and historic areas, an assortment of activities related to the Klondike Gold Rush, and other tourism initiatives draw some 60,000 visitors each year.

Total Population

year	*population*
2003	1,772
2002	1,831
2001	1,845
2000	1,928
1999	1,986
1998	2,057
1997	2,132
1996	2,043
1995	1,995
1994	1,999
1993	1,980

Age Distribution



PEOPLE

Dawson City's 2003 population averaged 1,772. This is the lowest it had been for several years, although the community did grow through the 1990s.

Historically, Dawson City has always experienced major movements of people, both in and out of the area. Today's scale of movement is nothing like that of the town's early days. Still, Dawson City has a few more movers among the local population than do most other Yukon communities. In 2001, the Census reported that 79 percent of the overall Yukon population had lived in the same community five years earlier. In Dawson City, however, the proportion was a little lower: 77 percent.

In contrast to the growth of the 1990s, Dawson City has seen relatively few long-term new arrivals from

outside the Territory. Just 9 percent of the town's population had moved to the community from outside the Yukon during the period from 1996 to 2001, either from other provinces or from outside Canada. This compares with close to 16 percent for the Yukon as a whole. The remainder of people moving to Dawson City came from elsewhere in the Yukon.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in makes up about 27 percent of the Dawson City community population. This compares with First Nations representation of about 23 percent for the Yukon population as a whole.

Proportionately fewer children and young people live in the community of Dawson City than in the Yukon as a whole. On the other hand, a little higher proportion of community residents is in the 25-to-44 age group: 33 percent, compared to 31 percent for the Yukon as a whole. This is a carryover of some movement of working-age people to Dawson City during the 1990s to find employment or start businesses. Dawson also has a smaller population over the age of 65 years, just 5 percent compared to the Yukon average of 7 percent.

At the end of 2003, 47 percent of Dawson City's population was female, which is lower than the 50-percent average for the Yukon as a whole.

FIRST NATIONS

The First Nations people of the Dawson City area are known as the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are part of a larger Hän Nation that extends to Eagle, Alaska. The Hän language they speak is an Athapaskan dialect.

For generations, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in relied heavily on the salmon runs of the Yukon River, and had fish camps along its shores. They also hunted big game, moving to different areas of their land according to the seasons.

At the time of the Klondike Gold Rush, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in were relocated to the Moosehide reserve, which became their permanent home until the 1950s. Moosehide is five km downriver from Dawson City.

During a period of tremendous change, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in continued to keep close ties to their land and people. Chief Isaac, the leader of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in during the Gold Rush, guided his people through the tremendous upheaval caused by the influx of newcomers. The impact of cultural loss continued when many youth were sent to residential school. In 1957, changes in government practices at Moosehide caused the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to move into Dawson City, where they have become an important and integral part of the community.

Today, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are actively involved in relearning their heritage, language, songs, and dances and passing them on to the children. The Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre, on the shore of the Yukon River in Dawson City, serves as a focal point for the people's cultural revival, as does their biennial gathering at Moosehide.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in signed their land claim and self-government agreements in 1998, following the structure set out in the Umbrella Final Agreement. Since then they have been implementing their settlements through many new initiatives. The Heritage Department has flourished and is working on a five-year heritage strategic plan. The First Nation is working on a number of heritage developments, such as restoration of the Forty Mile, Fort Constantine, Fort Cudahy Heritage Site; management planning for Tr'ochëk Heritage Site; and heritage work at Black City on the Dempster Highway.

As of April 2004, the registered population reported by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in was 964, about 420 of whom live elsewhere in the Yukon and in other parts of Canada.

THE ECONOMY

Dawson City's economy is strongly linked to tourism, which has weathered several poor years, due to various Canadian and international factors. The Yukon's tourism industry has in fact fared better than Canada and most jurisdictions. Placer mining is also an important element in the area's economy. Dawson also has a vibrant arts community, which aids tourism and supports residents through the year.

With tourism being the major source of economic growth, most employment is linked to providing services for tourists. The accommodation and food services sector employs about 17 percent of the workforce in Dawson City, compared to 9 percent on average in the Yukon. A further 11 percent of the workforce is employed in "other services", which includes recreation and arts, the fastest-growing component of the local economy. Other links to tourism activity appear in the 6 percent employed in transportation and utilities and the 9 percent employed in trade.

Since Dawson City is one of the Yukon's larger communities, government services (17 percent), educational services (4 percent), and health services (6 percent) are also significant employers. These proportions are a little lower than the employment shares for these industry sectors in the Yukon as a whole.

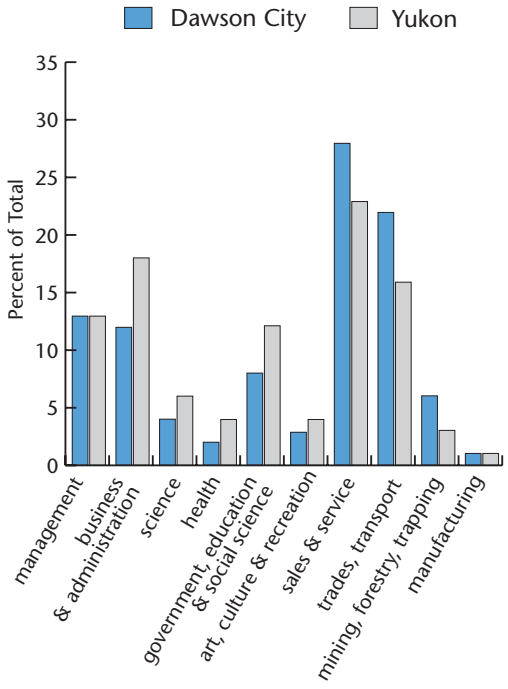
Mining employed about 8 percent of the Dawson City workforce in the 2001 Census, considerably higher than the 2-percent share reported across the Yukon that year. Some people work in other sectors for most of the year and in gold placer mining during the summer. The Dawson area is famous for its placer gold. Calculating accurate placer gold production is notoriously difficult, since the system of reporting is haphazard and some of the gold leaks into the cash economy. Although placer gold production hit a 23-year low in 2002, with only 53,078 fine ounces recorded, an increase in the world gold price has alleviated this drop somewhat. Preliminary indications in 2004 are that higher gold prices are leading to increased placer mining operations.

Other primary industries, which include agriculture, fishing, trapping and forestry, provide a small share of employment (1 percent), just slightly below the overall Yukon pattern. As with mining, the number of people involved in trapping varies from year to year. Some trap part-time to augment income from other sources.

Construction activity is also variable, but provided almost 10 percent of employment in 2001. Some people find employment in communications, various business services or finance and real estate. Manufacturing is too small a part of the Dawson City economy to be measured by Statistics Canada.

Chief Isaac Incorporated is the development company of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Chief Isaac Inc. has established local businesses to employ First Nations people. The company has operations in property management and rentals, janitorial and security services, petroleum distribution and general freight. Traditional activities are also an important part of the economy and lifestyle of First Nations people in the Dawson City area. A significant number of people hunt and fish to supply some of their families' food needs.

Employment Share by Occupation



WORK

In the 2001 Census, about 85 percent of Dawson City's adult population reported that they were active in the labour market. This is a little higher than the overall Yukon proportion of 80 percent. Reported unemployment, at 10 percent, was slightly lower than the 2001Yukon average of 12 percent. Women in Dawson City in 2001 reported a slightly lower unemployment rate than men: 9 percent.

Young people are also more likely to be active in the labour market in Dawson City than in the Yukon as a whole. In 2001, about 75 percent of the 15-to-24 age group reported that they were in the labour market, compared to 68 percent across the Yukon. Unemployment in 2001 was also lower for Dawson City young people. This age group had an unemployment rate of 8 percent in Dawson City, compared to a Yukon average of 22 percent. Employment conditions can change significantly each year depending on the level of tourism activity. Tourism worldwide has decreased substantially since 2001; this will mean markedly changed job opportunities for young people. Lack of year-round employment among young people is a major concern for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. They report even higher unemployment among their people and are concerned that much of the available work is seasonal or short-term.

On average in 2003, 184 individuals in Dawson City claimed employment insurance payments. The number of people claiming employment insurance was as low as 156 in 2001 before climbing to the latest levels.

Relatively little market work in Dawson City is full-time and full year, reflecting the importance of seasonal work in both tourism and placer mining. The 2001 Census reported that people working full-time, full year in Dawson City accounted for 39 percent of all workers, an increase since 1996 but still far short of the 46 percent for the Yukon as a whole. People living in Dawson often work especially long hours in the summer tourism season. Those involved in the arts, such as writers, artists and craftspeople, also pursue these activities for the rest of the year.

Self-employment, at 16 percent of all employment, is about the same as in the Yukon as a whole.

The 2001 Census reported that the average employment income for workers in Dawson City was almost $28,000, a little below the Yukon average of $31,500. For those who worked full-time for the full year, the average income from employment stood at $41,000, compared to $44, 600 for the Yukon as a whole.

Work in Dawson City leans strongly toward occupations involved in tourism. At the time of the 2001 Census, about 29 percent of total employment in the community was in sales and service occupations, such as cooks, food service fields, retail sales, and cashiers. This compares with a 23-percent share for these occupational fields in the Yukon as a whole. The proportion of the workforce in sales and service fields will be even higher now than in 1996. The percentage of workers in management occupations in Dawson City, at 13 percent of total employment, is the same as in the Yukon as a whole.

Dawson City is a large community with a wide range of health, education, government and business services. Consequently, some people work in occupations such as teaching, nursing, social work, and administration. However, the proportion of people working in these occupations is somewhat lower than for the Yukon as a whole.

The importance of mining and related trades work is reflected in the slightly higher shares of employment in these fields in Dawson City than in the Yukon as a whole.

EDUCATION

The 2001 Census indicates that 47 percent of people in Dawson aged 20 years or older have taken some non-university education or training after leaving school. About 21 percent said they had taken some university-level education. Over half of the latter group, or 13 percent of the population over 20 years of age, had completed at least a bachelor-level degree. About 25 percent of the 20-plus population said their highest level of education was some secondary school; 6 percent reported completion of Grade 9 or less.

The Dawson City Campus of Yukon College, Tr'odek Hatr'unohtan Zho (Klondike School House), works closely with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture (KIAC) to offer a variety of college and employment preparation courses. In response to the community's requests and the labour market, the college has recently offered courses in carpentry, plumbing, office administration, accounting, computer studies, early childhood development, fisheries field technician, small engine repair, English and math as well as a variety of shorter courses. In addition, college and university courses are offered via videoconference, teleconference and online.

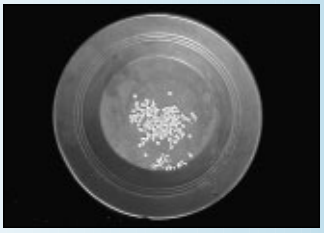
Dawson is known for its fine-arts and cultural industries programs. KIAC and Yukon College have worked together for five years to offer a seven-month program called Arts for Employment that introduces students to

various art-related disciplines. KIAC also offers continuing education art courses and workshops. KIAC is developing a transferable First Year Art Foundation Program, slated to begin in September 2005.

New initiatives are emerging between the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Yukon College, Robert Service School and KIAC. The First Nation is interested in working as partners with the Yukon government to create a new model for education and life-long learning.

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Dawson City is already a major tourism centre, world-famous for the Klondike Gold Rush. The town is a national heritage area with a significant array of historical attractions. With further growth in Yukon-wide tourism activities and increased offshore interest in Yukon wilderness, more people are expected to come to the Yukon for longer stays. This will add to the tourism potential of the Dawson City area.



Developing adventure tourism and winter activities are important steps toward increasing future tourism, as is providing high-quality services for older, more sophisticated tourists. The new territorial park at Tombstone Mountain, which will be established under the terms of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in land claims agreement, will offer an additional wilderness tourism attraction. Located about 80 km northeast of Dawson on the Dempster Highway, Tombstone Mountain is a rugged and scenic area offering high-quality recreational opportunities in an accessible location.

Mining is still a major influence on the economic health of the area. Gold placer mining, which has provided significant employment and income in the past, has weakened in recent years. Placer mining is hard on equipment, and many small operators will not be able to keep operating when gold prices are in decline. The price of gold has recovered somewhat, which could encourage some small placer operations to start up again.

There are occurrences of base metals, primarily copper, lead, zinc and other minerals, in the Dawson area, but exploration and mining is dominated by gold.

The economic development activity of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is a significant factor in Dawson City's future prospects. Building on its current base, Chief Isaac Incorporated has plans to develop products that can be sold to international markets.

Tourism development, as a source of job growth in Dawson City, will increasingly require workers who have very competitive skills. Communication and language skills are important, as is expertise in operating businesses, especially small businesses. The use of Internet communications to reach out to tourists is already important. High-speed internet service is now available in Dawson. Providing enhanced levels of services, especially to attract older people with high incomes, will be key to expansion.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Education from elementary to post-secondary is available in Dawson City. Kindergarten to Grade 12 is available at Robert Service School. Like all Yukon schools, the core curriculum (80%) follows the British Columbia Ministry of Education curriculum, and students are eligible to write B.C. departmental exams.

The Dawson City Campus of Yukon College was given its First Nation name of Tr'odek Hatr'unohtan Zho (Klondike School House) in 1990. It works closely with the First Nation and KIAC to offer a variety of educational programming for adults in the community.

Health care is provided Monday to Friday by the Community Health Centre. The centre also provides after-hours emergency service and ambulance dispatch. Four doctors (two of whom work at any one time) and one dentist have practices in Dawson City.

Policing is provided by an RCMP detachment of one sergeant, one corporal and five constables.

Fire and ambulance services are provided by a volunteer service, 25 strong, with members trained in first aid and CPR. This service operates within town limits.

Other community social services include the Yukon Family Services Association, the Housing Corporation, a YTG Health and Social Services social worker, a probation officer, and the Dawson City Women's Shelter, which is open 24 hours a day.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in offers social services to its members, including counseling, court assistance and support through the native courtworker service, social assistance, and adult and home care. There is also an Education Coordinator.

Klondike Outreach Employment Services provides services related to employment and career development, including job postings. Two public computers are also available for job searches. The office is open year round and registration is free. The office is funded through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and is managed by a volunteer board of directors.

The Yukon Energy Corporation began construction of a 223-km transmission line from the Mayo Hydro Generating Station to Dawson in June 2001; the line was put into service in 2003. This will reduce Dawson's former dependency on diesel-generated power.

The town's piped water supply is available to most residents. Outlying homes use private wells. Sewage is micro-screened and discharged into the Yukon River, while garbage is disposed of in a dump.

Territorial Agent services are provided through the Yukon Liquor Corporation facilities in Dawson City. These services include providing information and forms, accepting various applications, and issuing licences and permits.

Post office service includes mail trucked or flown in five times a week. There is also public local dial-up and high-speed Internet access.

Full library services are available through the Dawson City Community Library both winter and summer, including Internet access for the public.

Banking services are available in Dawson City through a CIBC branch.

The community's airport is located about 16 km outside Dawson City, and Customs service is available there. There is regular air service from Whitehorse and Fairbanks, Alaska. Road access is by the Klondike Highway (to Whitehorse), Dempster Highway (to Inuvik, NWT), and Top of the World Highway (summer only, to Tok, Alaska). Whitehorse is 536 km away or six and a half hours' driving time.

Many community services are designed to cater to a transient population because of the heavy tourist traffic, much of it in RVs or cars. The community has a range of commercial campgrounds, hotels and motels, and entertainment travel suppliers. Of note are the Dawson City Museum, the Klondike National Historic Sites, and Diamond Tooth Gertie's Gambling Hall — the only casino in the Yukon.

Two grocery stores, one video and convenience store, four clothing stores, two beauty shops, four RV parks, four gas stations, several gift shops, two hardware stores, a Sears outlet, a drugstore, a laundromat, several restaurants, an office supplies store and a bookstore serve both locals and visitors.

Many of the industrial firms are located at the Callison industrial subdivision on the Klondike Highway, five km south of Dawson. These services include tire repair, propane sales, welding and machine shops, heavy equipment repair and rental, a lumber mill, and freight and trucking companies.

During the summer, YTG provides a free ferry service across the Yukon River to the Top of the World Highway. A public campground, golf course, and residential subdivision are located across the river. During the winter, vehicles cross the river on an ice bridge, also maintained by YTG. A bridge across the Yukon River is in the planning stages, with completion estimated in 2007.

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

Although many shops, hotels, and restaurants are open only during the busy tourist season, a number remain open year round. Two of the larger hotels, both with dining rooms, are open all year. Two other hotels, a B&B establishment, a coffee shop that serves light meals and a pizzeria also operate year-round.

Aurora Accounting provides word-processing, accounting, photocopying, and fax services. Fax and photocopying are also available at the video store. Bird's Eye Design offers desktop publishing and graphic design services. Klondike Info-Tech offers year-round internet services and digital image transfer to CD. The community has no cell phone access.

Dawson City Courier and Taxi runs a taxi service and a daily bus and small freight service to and from Whitehorse.

The Business Service Centre, located in the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, provides assistance for people looking to start a business.

Dawson City Price Survey

October 2003	*Whitehorse = 100*
Total Survey Items	116.8
Meat	101.1
Dairy/Eggs	105.9
Fruit/Veg.	109.9
Bread/Cereal	129.9
Other Foods	124.2
Household Operations	116.1
Health & Personal Care	167.6
Gasoline	116.2
Cigarettes	100.6

COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Dawson City reflects the community's location, well off the Alaska Highway, which is the main transportation route to and through the Yukon. Prices for most goods and services are substantially higher than in Whitehorse. In general, living in Dawson City is almost 17 percent more expensive than living in Whitehorse.

In 2001, according to the Census, Dawson City contained 540 occupied dwellings. The average value was $135,300 for a two-to-three-bedroom house. Rental housing cost, on average, $550–600 a month in 2001. The First Nation manages 120 houses. Because Dawson City attracts many job seekers in the summer, housing is typically very hard to obtain in the summer months. A campsite has been set up across the Yukon River from the community to provide space for temporary summer residents.

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

For a small community, Dawson City boasts a large number of artists and musicians. This is reflected in the regular talent shows, poetry readings, plays and art displays, as well as in the annual Dawson City Music Festival, Klondike River Arts Festival and the Dawson City Film Festival. The writer-in-residence program brings accomplished authors to the Berton House throughout the year for extended periods of time. During the tourist season, both local residents and tourists attend dramatic presentations at the museum, Robert Service cabin, Palace Grand Theatre, and Diamond Tooth Gertie's.

Hiking, fishing, golfing, tennis, and baseball are common summer activities. The City of Dawson's recreation department supplements this with a full range of recreational activities, including a swimming pool. The location of the town, at the confluence of the Yukon and Klondike rivers, invites canoeing, rafting, and boating. Many hiking trails close to town and in the nearby goldfields provide wonderful views of the town and surrounding area. These include the popular Crocus Bluff, Moosehide, and Ridge Road trails.

In the winter, people are involved with curling, hockey, snowmobiling, dog mushing, cross-country and downhill skiing. The Yukon Quest sled dog race runs through Dawson every year, as does the Trek Over the Top, an international snowmobile trip from Tok, Alaska to Dawson City.

CLIMATE

The climate in Dawson City reflects its northern location. Over the past few decades, daily high January temperatures have typically been at minus 22.5 Celsius, dropping to an overnight average of minus 31 Celsius. The long days of summer can be very warm: over the same period (from 1971 to the present), daily highs in July averaged 23

Celsius, with overnight lows averaging 8 Celsius. Annual precipitation averaged 324 millimetres, including close to 200 mm of rain and 160 mm of snow.

MORE INFORMATION

Community and business service information is available at http://www.yukonweb.com/community/dawson/ and at

Dawson City Chamber of Commerce and Business Service Centre Box 1006, Dawson City, YT Y0B 1G0 Phone: (867) 993-5274 Fax: (867) 993-6817 http://www.cbsc.org/yukon/

Dawson City's municipal government can be reached at the City of Dawson, Box 308, Dawson City YT, Y0B 1G0, Phone: (867) 993-7400, Fax: (867) 993-7434, E-mail: cityofdawson@yknet.ca

Details about the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in can be found in a book, *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*, published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1998. Information is also available on-line at http://sdiprod2.inac.gc.ca/FNProfiles/

For more information about the First Nation, go to http://www.yfnta.org/

Tourist and other local information is provided by the Klondike Visitors Association at http://www.dawsoncity.ca

For information about the Dawson City campus of Yukon College, go to http://yukoncollege.yk.ca/campuses/

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/

For information on occupations in the Yukon, working conditions, and the Yukon economy, see *Yukon WorkFutures* at http://www.workfutures.yk.ca

For information about the local environment, see the *Yukon State of the Environment Report* at http://www.taiga.net/yukonsoe/

For general information about the Yukon, see Yukon Fact Sheets at http://www.gov.yk.ca/facts/

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics has annual economic and statistical reviews at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts./eco/stats/index.html

The Strategis Business Map has some community information, links to Statistics Canada community information, and a map system: http://commercecan.ic.gc.ca/scdt/bizmap/interface2.nsf/engdocBasic/O.html

For current job listings throughout the Yukon, check the Yukon office of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at: http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml

Employment information can be found at Klondike Outreach Office at http://www.klondikeoutreach.com

Technical and computer support can be found at http://www.klondikeinfotech.com

The Community of Faro

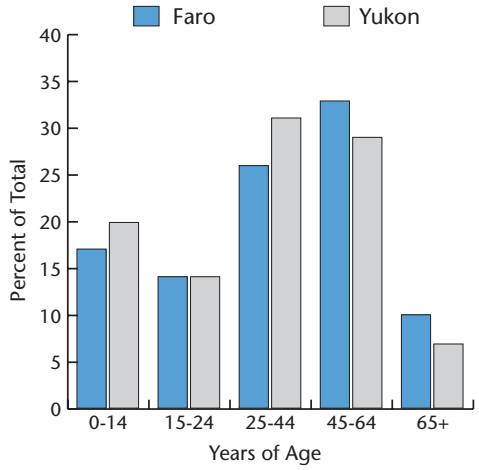
Faro is located in the Pelly River valley in the Anvil Mountains. The community lies just off the Robert Campbell Highway, 356 kilometres northeast of Whitehorse. The Town of Faro was established in 1969 to service a major lead-zinc deposit 22 km away. The mine was a vital contributor to the territorial economy for many years.

The mine has had a checkered history of operation and ownership. As a result, Faro has had several trying years of declining population and difficult economic times. The mine is in receivership and is being monitored in preparation for reclamation; this employs 30-40 Faro residents from April to September. The community now supports a much smaller but more stable population and is developing as a tourism, arts and retirement community.

Total Population

year	*population*
2003	355
2002	380
2001	373
2000	431
1999	577
1998	911
1997	1,226
1996	1,312
1995	823
1994	528
1993	940

Age Distribution



PEOPLE

The population of Faro has fluctuated wildly over the years, depending on the status of the mine. Yukon government information, drawn from administrative health records, shows that the population averaged 350 in 2003. Local people in Faro suggest the number is considerably higher, estimating the population at 650 in 2004. It is likely that some Faro residents do not live in the community permanently, but maintain an active presence there through part-time residence. This may explain the local sense that the population is larger than that given by the official reading for 2003.

Faro historically was a community of movers but by 2001 the population was more stable, with 75 percent of the population saying that they had lived in Faro since 1996. Local people suggest that the population figure in 2004 may be higher than the official count. Close to 17 percent had come from outside the Yukon between 1996 and 2001 — only slightly higher than the close to 16 percent for the Yukon as a whole.

The Census showed an 18 percent representation of First Nations people in the community, a little lower than the Yukon-wide representation of 23 percent.

Faro's age distribution shows somewhat fewer young people, a consequence of people moving away when work at the mine ceased. In 2003, 17 percent of the population in Faro were under the age of 15 and a further 14 percent were aged 15 to 24 years. This compares with

20 percent and 14 percent Yukon-wide. There is also a slightly smaller proportion of people in the 25-to-44 age group, with 26 percent compared to the Yukon average of 31 percent. More people are found in the 45-to-64 age group. In Faro, 33 percent of the population is in this older working age group, compared to 29 percent Yukon wide. In 2003, those over 65 made up 10 percent of the Faro population in comparison to 7 percent for the Yukon.

About 48 percent of the population in Faro are female, very close to the 50 percent female representation in the total Yukon population.

FIRST NATIONS

The town of Faro is located within the traditional hunting and trapping area of the Kaska Dena people of Ross River, in an area that continues to be a prime moose-hunting spot. The Faro mine operated for several decades with continued involvement by the First Nations people of the region.

The community of Faro has worked together with the Ross River Dena Council on a number of issues, including the planning, building and ongoing maintenance of the Dena Cho Trail and mine site clean-up. A contractor in Ross River carried out part of the mine site work, which included removal of scrap and derelict core shacks.

THE ECONOMY

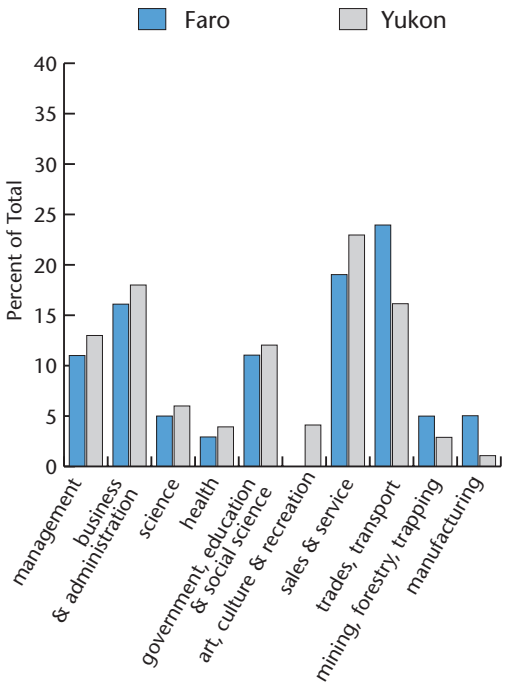
The people of Faro are now focused on practical economic development opportunities to guide the community. Important issues include residential development, community facilities, recreation, the environment, infrastructure and social well-being. Although Faro was created as a community to house workers and provide services to the Cyprus Anvil Mine, mining is no longer the base of the community's economy. In 1996, when the Anvil Range mine was still producing, well over 50 percent of the community's workforce was employed in mining. Other industries provided services to the mine, such as transportation of minerals or delivery of goods.

Faro also has community services, such as education, health, and government services. Still other service sectors, such as retail trade and accommodation and food services, although much smaller now than when the mine was in operation, support some employment. Faro benefits from the considerable infrastructure of housing and facilities that was put in place when the mine was operating.

Faro is in the process of making an economic transition from mining to new opportunities. It is likely that mining will contribute at some level to the economic future of Faro, through reclamation activities and mine clean-up. Mining tourism will also attract visitors to the town. These contributions will need to be complemented by other economic activities to ensure economic vitality.

Government, education, and health care employ a substantial number of people in Faro. Commercial activities provide retail services,

Employment Share by Occupation in 1996



accommodation, food, and other services to local people and visitors. Tourism is a small but growing component of economic activity in Faro, and is being actively encouraged to provide more economic support.

WORK

Over the past several years Faro has experienced certain characteristics typical of a mining town. People come to Faro for work. When there is no work, many move out. In 1996, when the mine was still operating, labour market participation was very high and unemployment was low. By 2001, with many people moving away, labour market participation of the remaining people had slipped a little, to just below the Yukon pattern. Unemployment had increased to almost 16 percent, compared with just less than 12 percent Yukon wide. The local impact of the loss of mining jobs — while significant — was reduced by the fact that many people left Faro when they no longer had work.

By 2003, only 36 people were claiming employment insurance. This number is down from the 200 seen in 1997 and 1998 just after the mine ceased operation.

The 2001 Census reported that young people in Faro (those in the 15-to-24 age group) were less likely to be in the labour force than youth Yukon-wide; and that they were experiencing difficulty in finding work locally. Youth in Faro had an unemployment rate more than double the average community unemployment rate in 2001. Information from the community indicates that the employment situation for young persons in Faro has improved since 2001, with more young people in the labour force and better access to jobs, both seasonal and year-round.

When the mine was in operation, a slightly higher proportion of work in Faro was full-time, full year than in the Yukon as whole. Since the mine closure the proportion of people working on a full-time, full year basis has dropped to 32 percent, compared to 46 percent Yukon-wide.

As of 2001 there was far less self-employment in Faro than in other parts of the Yukon: about 8 percent of Faro's total work activity, compared to the Yukon self-employment rate of 13 percent.

The community's proximity to wildlife viewing and wilderness provides opportunities for jobs and accommodation services related to hiking, canoe trips, cross-country and back-country skiing, snowmobiling, fly-in fishing and hunting. These economic opportunities have been co-promoted with the tourism attractions and facilities along the Robert Campbell Highway. The town is building a boat launch to encourage recreational canoeists paddling down the Pelly River to stop over in Faro. People gather every spring to view Sandhill crane and Fannin sheep.

In 2001, average employment income in Faro was reported as $23,200 — lower than the average earnings of $31,500 for all workers in the Yukon as a whole. For those working full-time, full year, average earnings were close to $38,000, compared to the Yukon wide figure of

$44,600. The 2001 occupational distribution of employment is now far closer to the patterns seen Yukon-wide.

Government — at the federal, territorial and municipal level — is the largest employer in the community. It encompasses the Town of Faro, Del Van Gorder School, the RCMP, nursing station, Social Services office, airport, Yukon Housing, Yukon Energy, Territorial Agent and Canada Post.

People in Faro are found in management, administrative, government, social services occupations in much the same proportion as they are generally in the Yukon. The proportion working in sales, service, arts and recreation are a little lower than the Yukon-wide proportions, and there is still more emphasis on primary industry occupations than on average in the Yukon. The community of Faro is still in transition and moving away from being solely a mining town.

EDUCATION

In 2001, a majority of people living in Faro reported that they either had secondary school education (21 percent) or had taken some non-university post-secondary or college education or training (almost 50 percent). A further 14 percent reported they had some university education; 10 percent have completed a university degree.

The Community Campus Committee at Yukon College works to support the local college staff and liaises with the Whitehorse campus.

The Faro Training Trust Fund Committee accepts applications and approves funds for student training at the local college and for other individuals.

Enrolment at Del Van Gorder School declined from 242 students in May 1996 to 67 students in May 2002. While this is a significant falling-off, the rate of decline of the school population has slowed. Over the past two years the school population has declined by only nine students to the current number of 53. Since 1998, the size of the graduating class has been reasonably constant.

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

It is clear that the Faro mine remains a very high-cost producer; despite higher commodity prices, plans to re-open the mine are not in the offing. If the mine does re-open, it is very likely that far fewer people will be employed there.

Since 1997, Faro has undertaken a number of initiatives to ensure that it remains vibrant and vital. These include establishment of a full nine-hole golf course, assisting the private sector with promoting housing sales, and resurrecting the annual Farrago Music Festival. In partnership with the community of Ross River, people in Faro planned and initiated

the development of the Dena Cho Trail, an 80-km hiking route that links the two communities.

The town also constructed an aircraft fuelling facility that is accessible 24 hours a day. To develop mining tourism in the community, the town refurbished an ore-hauling truck and put it on display in the rest stop near the entrance to the community. The community is currently negotiating to move more mining equipment from the mine site to this location.

Other initiatives include Fannin sheep viewing sites and cabin; new bed and breakfast accommodations; a new hotel and restaurants and a catering service. Additional visitor services include development of The Faro Arboretum, the Fingers wildlife viewing site, a multi-use trail network, and the Campbell Region Interpretive Centre, with permanent exhibits on wildlife, geology, history and mining.

In part due to these successful initiatives, Faro residents are optimistic about economic opportunities and growth for the community in the future. Ultimately, the size of the population in the next five years will depend on the community's efforts to diversify and expand its economic base and to encourage more people to make Faro their home.

The mainstay of Faro's economy is its core of small businesses that provide services to the community and its visitors. These include a grocery store, hardware store, hotel, restaurants, delicatessen, gas station and convenience/gift store, as well as furnace-service and construction companies. Faro also has two realtors, a crafts supplies provider, a cleaning supplies distributor, and a satellite dish provider, in addition to tourism operators and outfitters. Several artists have also chosen to live in Faro.

Home-based businesses are becoming a more important part of the local economy, and include everything from bed and breakfast operations to a taxidermy shop and a pickle-making operation. While in many cases these businesses are not the operators' sole source of income, they are increasingly significant to the economic vitality of the community.

Ongoing environmental and clean-up work at the mine provides a significant economic contribution to the economy of the community. This work may increase in the future, which would yield additional economic benefits (e.g. jobs).

The Town of Faro is focusing on tourism for possible economic growth. Faro is located on the edge of the Yukon Plateau, an area particularly rich in wildlife and scenery. A growing emphasis on wilderness tourism activities in Faro has led to the development of hiking trails, multi-use trails (such as the Dena Cho Trail), gold-panning activities, canoeing and other potential Pelly River initiatives, fly-in fishing operations, hunting, wildlife viewing (Fannin sheep, bears, birds and salmon) and cross-country skiing. All of these offer the potential for employment and revenue. The town offers good community facilities for visitors, and it encourages and supports new tourist ventures built on emerging adventure and wilderness activities.

Events such as the Farrago Music Festival and the Ice Worm Squirm Winter Carnival have brought economic and social benefits to the community over the past several years. In addition, they create a positive awareness of the community on the part of Yukoners and people outside the territory. The community considers these types of events valuable marketing events for Faro and continues to support them.

Co-marketing Faro with the Robert Campbell Highway's tourism potential (including its wildlife viewing opportunities) could generate significant economic benefits for Faro. Although much of the marketing material has already been developed, Faro continues to develop products to promote the community and the region.

Faro also serves as the home base for a number of families that have a family member working outside the community. These people chose to keep Faro their home because of their love for the community and the surrounding region. Their incomes contribute to the local economy.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Because Faro established a wide variety of community and recreational facilities when the mine was in operation, there is a high level of services and well-developed community and recreational infrastructure. A good housing stock, along with extensive community services, can help support economic growth.

Education from kindergarten to Grade 12 is available at Del Van Gorder School. Post-secondary education is provided through Yukon College's Faro Campus, which opened in 1988. The Faro Campus offers both full-time and part-time programs, ranging from academic upgrading to computer studies, early childhood development, office management, employment skills and locally developed programs relevant to community economic development.

Faro Price Survey

October 2003	*Whitehorse = 100*
Total Survey Items	107.7
Meat	90.4
Dairy/Eggs	114.1
Fruit/Veg.	102.7
Bread/Cereal	114.8
Other Foods	108.1
Household Operations	110.4
Health & Personal Care	122.7
Gasoline	109.4
Cigarettes	104.2

Health care is provided through the Faro Nursing Station, which is staffed by community nurses who function as nurse practitioners in collaboration with a doctor. The clinic is open Monday to Friday, except on statutory holidays. Emergency care is available 24 hours a day. A doctor based in Faro also provides services to Ross River and Carmacks.

The Yukon government's Department of Health and Social Services provides a full range of counseling services in Faro. There is an RCMP detachment in Faro. Probation services are provided out of Whitehorse. Territorial Agent services are provided from the Yukon Liquor Corporation facilities in Faro. These services include providing information and forms, accepting various applications, and issuing licences and permits. Canada Post has a full-service postal outlet in Faro. Local dial-up and high-speed Internet access is available in the community.

Faro is served by an agency of the TD Canada Trust bank, located in the Discovery Store. Hours vary. An ATM is available at the store 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A lotteries machine is located inside the store. The Faro Library Board administers the payroll for the public librarian and provides guidance on ordering and purchasing books.

Faro's recreation centre has a gymnasium, seasonal swimming pool, seasonal four-sheet curling rink, squash court, youth lounge and weight room. The town maintains an indoor ice arena that is used for hockey games, figure skating, broomball and other activities during the winter. There are a number of community playgrounds throughout the community. Faro also has a community library.

Faro has a volunteer fire service, volunteer ambulance service and volunteer search-and-rescue service.

The Faro airport has a 4,000-foot (1,231-metre) gravel runway with lights. The airport is staffed seven days a week, provides flight plan filing (through Whitehorse Flight Services), and an aircraft refuelling facility that is accessible 24 hours a day and allows for credit card payments. The airport is adjacent to Johnson Lake, which is used as a float-plane base (6,000 feet/1,846 metres).

Road access to Whitehorse is via the Campbell and Klondike highways. It is 356 km to Whitehorse, a driving time of about four and a half hours. Watson Lake is 423 km away via the Campbell Highway.

The Yukon Energy Corporation supplies hydroelectric power from the Whitehorse hydro facility, backed up by diesel units in Faro.

There are two churches in Faro. The Church of the Apostles holds Catholic and Protestant services and is run by a joint board. The Faro Bible Chapel holds services Sunday at 11 a.m.

Faro's grocery store is open daily with varying hours. The store also rents home videos and provides case-lot orders. There is also a catalogue mail order outlet and an agency of the TD Canada Trust bank.

There is a small hardware store with flexible hours.

Faro has a gas station that also sells diesel and propane. Hours, which vary, are posted.

A local animal shelter, run by a volunteer, also has boarding and kennel facilities.

A local gift, tobacco and convenience store is open Monday to Friday. Hours vary.

A restaurant is located in the hotel. Hours vary. A delicatessen and bakery, which provides restaurant services, is located in the shopping centre. A fine dining room is open for special occasions and catering.

Realty services are available in the community. Faro also has barber services available.

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

Faro houses five B & B establishments as well as one hotel with a restaurant. Some B&Bs also offer guided tours and hiking and canoeing packages.

Photocopying and faxing can be done at the Yukon College Campus, Town of Faro office, or the grocery store.

Internet and email access are available at the Public Library, the Yukon College Campus and the Campbell Region Interpretive Centre.

There is no cell phone access in Faro, but one can use a satellite phone or one of several pay phones.

There is ample housing, office, and business space at this time.

The Town's municipal office is open for business licences and information about Faro.

COST OF LIVING

Prices in Faro range from almost 22 percent above comparable prices in Whitehorse to more than 10 percent below Whitehorse prices. Overall, the cost of living in Faro is just over 8 percent higher than the Whitehorse cost of living.

The Census reported 110 occupied private dwellings in Faro in 2001; local sources estimate the number at 150. For owner-occupied housing in Faro, generally with three bedrooms, Census information gave an average value of $40,507 in 2001. Rented accommodation cost an average of $664 a month in 2001. Because of the decline in population over several years there is also considerable unused housing available in Faro.

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

Faro offers opportunities for both summer and winter recreation. A lot of time has been spent creating hiking trails, an arboretum, and many wildlife/scenic-viewing stations. Fannin Sheep, which are particular to the region, can be studied from these stations.

The Farrago Committee works year-round planning and promoting the Farrago Music Festival.

Local leisure activities include slo-pitch softball, squash, swimming in the seasonal pool, cross-country skiing, hockey, figure skating, curling, and a kids' athletics club. Faro also has a recreational nine-hole golf course. Access to gym and weight room is available at the recreation centre as well as the squash courts.

Faro has an active north of 50 Senior Club.

Faro is famous for its Sleeping Bag Curling Bonspiel, and for its annual spring festival, the Ice Worm Squirm. A Sandhill crane and Fannin sheep viewing festival takes place in early May.

Royal Canadian Air Cadets, for youth over the age of 12, meet once a week.

Johnson Lake and Fish Eye Lake provide space for outdoor recreation, including swimming, water-skiing, fishing, and boating. Johnson Lake also supports a float-plane base and canoe-rental facility.

Recreational aircraft flying is popular.

CLIMATE

Over the past few decades Faro's typical January weather has seen a daytime high of minus 17 Celsius dropping to minus 28 Celsius at night. Summer temperatures, in July and August, are very pleasant, averaging a daytime temperature of 18 to 21 C, with nightime temperatures

around 6 to 9 C. Total annual precipitation over the 1971 to 2000 period averaged 316 mm, with a little over two-thirds falling as rain and about 110 cm as snow.

MORE INFORMATION

Information on Faro is available from the Town of Faro's Internet site at http://www.faroyukon.ca

The municipal government can be reached at Town of Faro, Box 580, Faro YT, Y0B 1K0, Phone: (867) 994-2728, Fax: (867) 994-3154 or e-mail: info@faroyukon.com.

For information about the Faro Campus of Yukon College, go to http://yukoncollege.yk.ca/campuses/

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca

For information on occupations in the Yukon, working conditions, and the Yukon economy, see *Yukon WorkFutures* at http://www.workfutures.yk.ca

For information about the local environment, see the *Yukon State of the Environment Report* at http://www.taiga.net/yukonsoe/

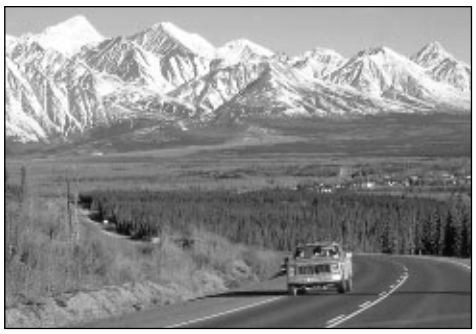
For general information about the Yukon, see Yukon Fact Sheets at http://www.gov.yk.ca/facts/

The Strategis Business Map has some community information, links to Statistics Canada community information and a map system: http://commercecan.ic.gc.ca/scdt/bizmap/interface2.nsf/engdocBasic/O.html

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics has annual economic and statistical reviews at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/stats/index.html

For current job listings throughout the Yukon, check the Yukon office of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml

The Community of Haines Junction



Set against the spectacular backdrop of Canada's highest mountains, Haines Junction is a popular holiday destination for Yukoners as well as tourists. The community is located at the junction of the Alaska Highway and the Haines Highway, 158 kilometres west of Whitehorse.

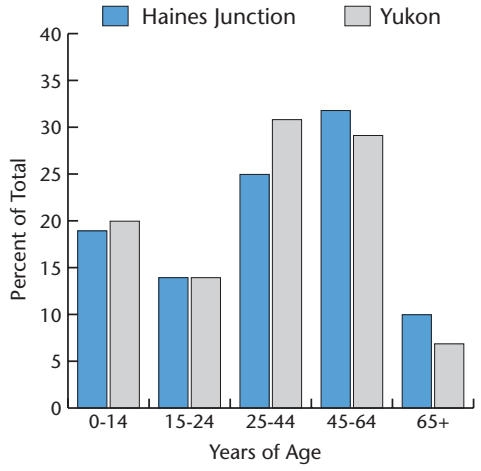
The Haines Junction area was a crossroads long before the highways arrived. It is located on an early trade route used by the Coastal Tlingit and Chilkat peoples. The Southern Tutchone used it as a temporary staging area for trapping, hunting and fishing. The village itself was established in 1942, during construction of the Alaska Highway

Haines Junction is best known as the access point to Kluane National Park and Reserve, a dramatically beautiful wilderness park, famous for its glaciers, mountains, and wildlife. Kluane National Park and Reserve, together with Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park in British Columbia, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Glacier Bay National Parks in Alaska, form the largest internationally protected area on earth. In 1980, Kluane National Park and Reserve was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site as a globally significant mountain wilderness. The park encompasses a portion of the St. Elias Mountains, including Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak.

Total Population

year	*population*
2003	794
2002	780
2001	768
2000	754
1999	777
1998	812
1997	854
1996	830
1995	802
1994	795
1993	786

Age Distribution



PEOPLE

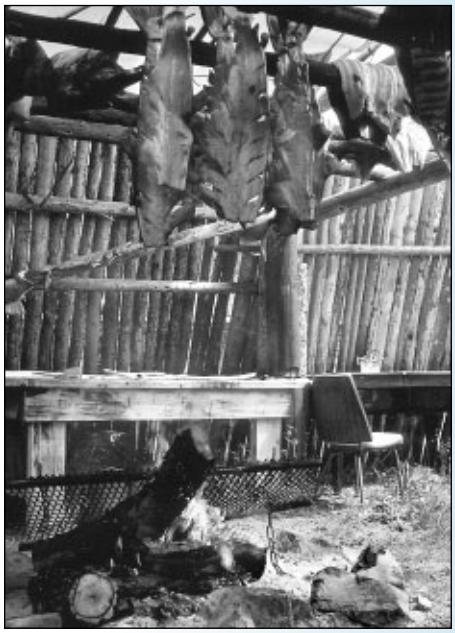
The population of Haines Junction was slightly under 800 in 2003, much the same as it has been for a couple of years. The community's population rose a little during the mid 1990s but essentially has changed little since the early 1990s.

The 2001 Census indicated that about 70 percent of the population of the Village of Haines Junction had lived there for at least five years. This is close to the pattern for the overall Yukon population. Only about 12 percent of the 2001 population had moved to the town in the previous five years from outside of the Yukon, primarily from elsewhere in Canada. This compares with nearly 16 percent for the Yukon as a whole.

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) is estimated to be about half of the overall community population. Census results for the Village of Haines Junction identify First Nations people at 40 percent of the population. However, this does not take into account the overall community area or CAFN villages outside the incorporated area.

Only 25 percent of the Haines Junction population falls into the 25-to-44 age group, compared to 31 percent Yukon-wide. There are proportionately more people in older age groups: about 32 percent of the population is from 45 to 64 years of age and almost 10 percent of the population is over 65 years of age. Comparable proportions for the Yukon as a whole are 29 percent and 7 percent. This age distribution reflects lack of opportunity for the working-age population. Some young adults leave the community to find work in places such as Whitehorse. Others likely work in other places for at least part of the year.

Almost half of the Haines Junction population is female, close to the Yukon average of 50 percent.



FIRST NATIONS

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations has an administrative centre at Haines Junction but also operates an office in Whitehorse. Traditionally, the townsite of Haines Junction was a stopover place for people on the move to other areas; its traditional name is Dakwakada or "high cache." The First Nation's traditional land is the southwestern Yukon and northwestern British Columbia, and its tribal council affiliation is the Southern Tutchone Tribal Council. CAFN identifies an overall membership of 1,129, making it one of the largest First Nations in the Yukon.

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' traditional territory is the home of the Southern Tutchone people of the southern Yukon region. There are many villages within its land base, such as Champagne, Klukshu, Aishihik and Hootchi. Southern Tutchone belongs to the Athapaskan language family. Many people in this area have Tlingit ancestry; The Coastal Tlingit people passed through the region for trade purposes, and the Tlingit village of Klukwan near Haines, Alaska, is close by. The Southern Tutchone lived a nomadic way of life and relied on the land and its resources for survival. Salmon remains one of the rich resources found in this area. Many Southern Tutchone people harvest salmon at the village of Klukshu and at Shäwshe (Dalton Post).

The Southern Tutchone people developed a social structure based on the clan system. It was borrowed from the Coastal Tlingit people who traded, partnered, and intermarried with the people of the area. Many of the Champagne and Aishihik people trace their ancestry through various clans originating on the coast. With the presence of a strong moiety and clan system, the potlatch is also central to the Champagne and Aishihik people's cultural tradition. Language, art, dancing and singing, and traditional bush life are being actively revived by the CAFN members and taught to their children.

Along with three other First Nations, CAFN signed their land claims and self-government agreements in 1993. The agreements came into effect in 1995. Many of the early leaders who were involved with the process from its 1973 inception were Champagne-Aishihik First Nations members, including Elijah Smith, Harry Allen, Mary Jane Jim, David Joe

and Paul Birckel. Throughout the negotiation process, Champagne-Aishihik First Nations was strongly involved in the Council for Yukon Indians (later the Council of Yukon First Nations). Under their land claims agreement, CAFN has a role in the co-management of their traditional territorial lands and any development proceeding on those lands. CAFN is a full partner on the Kluane National Park Management Board and the Alsek Renewable Resources Council and is represented on numerous other regional and territorial boards that make recommendations on heritage, educational, environmental and economic issues. The First Nation has a strong Heritage Department, which focuses on archaeology, documentation of oral traditions, and promoting song, dance and the arts of the Southern Tutchone culture.

THE ECONOMY

Haines Junction's economy is linked to the community's location along the Alaska Highway and to its role as access point to Kluane National Park and Reserve. Kluane is a wilderness park with hiking, skiing and cycling trails. Vehicle access to the park is limited to Mush Lake and the Alsek valley; snowmobile access is limited to Kathleen Lake.

The government services sector provides a significant share of work — about 27 percent of overall employment, compared with 21 percent for this sector across the Yukon. Haines Junction is home to the administrative centre for Kluane National Park and Reserve, as well as a variety of territorial government services. In addition, Haines Junction is the centre for CAFN administration, which now encompasses administration and provision of a variety of municipal and social services.

Six percent of the workforce is employed in education services, close to the Yukon-wide level of 7 percent. Health services account for about 6 percent of employment in Haines Junction, compared to 9 percent overall in the Yukon.

Tourism-related economic activity is a major part of community employment. The accommodation and food services and wilderness tourism services employs about 12 percent of the workforce, compared to a 9-percent share across the Yukon. Transportation is another significant component of the local economy, accounting for 5 percent of employment, slightly above the Yukon average of 4 percent. The "other services" sector, which includes recreation and arts, accounts for 6 percent of employment, close to the Yukon average of 7 percent. Retail trade's almost 11-percent share of industry employment is about the same as it is for the Yukon.

Construction activity provides about 8 percent of employment, in line with the Yukon as a whole. Other sectors that offer employment in the Haines Junction area include communications, agriculture, forestry and manufacturing. Industry sectors like mining, finance, and information and business services are too small a part of the Haines Junction economy to be measurable in the Census.

Traditional activities also play a role in the economy and lifestyle of Haines Junction, especially for First Nations people. Fur trapping is practiced on both a full-time and part-time basis, and most First Nation community members exercise their subsistence rights to hunt and fish.

WORK

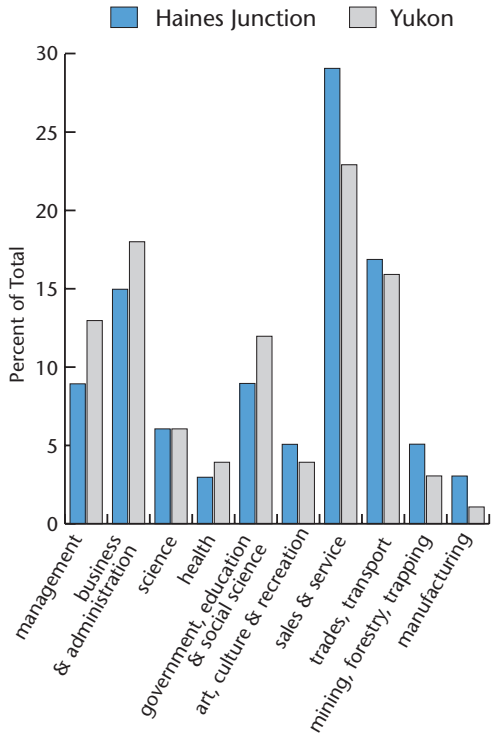
The 2001 Census showed a similar proportion of people in Haines Junction as the Yukon average in the labour market, either employed or looking for work. The proportion of unemployed people looking for work (at 9 percent for the community of Haines Junction) was lower than the Yukon average. Although Haines Junction is a community with diverse opportunities that encourage participation in the formal labour market it can still be challenging to find ongoing work.

The difficulty in finding work is particularly acute for young people aged 15 to 24. The unemployment rate for this age group in Haines Junction was at least 20 percent, close to the Yukon's average youth unemployment rate.

The pattern of unemployment for community residents is borne out by employment insurance numbers. In 2003, an average of 71 individuals claimed employment insurance payments. The annual numbers of people claiming income from employment insurance ranged from 50 to just over 70 throughout the past ten years.

In the Haines Junction area, work is less likely to be full-time, full year than the Yukon average. The 2001 Census reported that 36 percent of all workers were working full-time, full year, compared with 46 percent for the Yukon as a whole.

Employment Share by Occupation



In 2001, about 14 percent of those working in the Village of Haines Junction reported that they were mainly self-employed. This is slightly above the Yukon average of 13 percent.

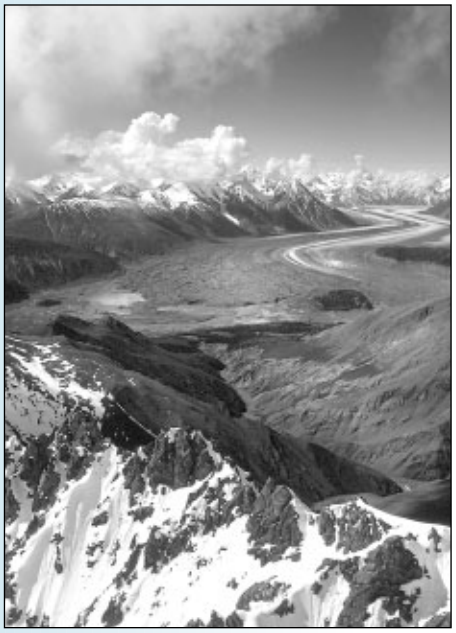
The average employment income for all workers in Haines Junction was reported by the 2001 Census as $25,800. This is a little more than 80 percent of the average for the Yukon as a whole. Those persons who worked full-time and for the full year earned almost $42,500 (employment earnings for full-time, full year workers overall in the Yukon were $44,600).

The mix of occupational groups in Haines Junction is very close to that in the Yukon. The largest occupational field is sales and service, reflecting the importance of tourism in the local economy. In addition, Kluane National Park and Reserve provides opportunities for science occupations. Other work, which emphasizes management and administration, is usually related to government activities, including First Nations, other governments and park administration.

EDUCATION

The 2001 Census indicates that 48 percent of the Haines Junction population aged 20 years or older have taken some non-university education or training after leaving school. An additional 23 percent of the same age group said that their highest level of education was some secondary school, and about 7 percent reported completing Grade 9 or less.

About 23 percent had taken some university-level education. Of this group, more than half — or 13 percent of the population over 20 years of age — had completed a university degree.



FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Haines Junction is located in an area with major potential for further tourism development. Nearby Kluane National Park and Reserve has been designated a World Heritage Site. It offers the kind of wilderness tourism opportunities, especially ecotourism, that are growing in popularity among offshore tourists. While the park itself is a wilderness area, the administrative centre in Haines Junction has some interpretation services. Additional activities that encourage a wider range of tourists to use the park and its surrounding area would provide further employment. Adventure tourism, the fastest growing tourism activity in Haines Junction, is also important to future tourism work.

CAFN is already active in the tourism industry. It sits as a full partner on the Kluane National Park Management Board and, through its land claims agreement, co-manages natural and cultural resources in its traditional territory. The First Nation is promoting tourism development as a major element of its economic development policy. Its plans include providing accommodation and transportation services, and developing commercial products related to cultural interests.

With the emphasis on tourism development in Haines Junction, tourism occupations can be expected to grow. These include operating hotels, motels, campgrounds, restaurants, and outfitting and guiding businesses. There is some need for special skills, such as food preparation, but most workers will need strong communications skills and the knowledge required to run small businesses.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

St. Elias Community School offers kindergarten to Grade 12. Communities farther north on the Alaska Highway also send students to Haines Junction for Grades 10-12. Some students attend high school in Whitehorse.

The Haines Junction Campus of Yukon College offers full-time academic upgrading programs and delivers a variety of continuing education courses. The campus's location near the St. Elias Mountains provides opportunities for such courses as avalanche training, wilderness guiding

and wilderness survival. Youth employment training, early childhood courses and office administration are also offered. The campus has videoconferencing capabilities and additional courses from other communities are available there.

Haines Junction is served by a local community Health Centre. Staffed by nurse practictioners, the centre is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m.–5 p.m., with emergency service 24 hours a day. Doctor's clinics are offered two or three times per month, Wellness Clinics are held every Wednesday and Child Clinics every Thursday. The community health nurses also cover the communities of Champagne and Canyon Creek.

Haines Junction has a volunteer ambulance service with designated members on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Haines Junction also has a locally based social worker and a locally based counsellor.

A newly established Senior's Centre is open every Wednesday afternoon.

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' social services program provides a number of services to its members in Haines Junction, Champagne and Canyon Creek. These include counselling, court assistance, social assistance, adult and homemaker care, and community health care. The First Nation and the Justice Department collaborate in holding a Circle Court in Haines Junction. The Yukon government has delegated authority for care of member First Nations children to CAFN, which provides these services.

The RCMP operates a detachment in Haines Junction with one corporal and two constables (including a designated First Nations position), along with a part-time clerk. Native courtworker and probation services are provided from Whitehorse. The local Haines Junction Community Justice Committee provides alternative justice systems.

The Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd. supplies hydroelectric power from Aishihik Lake, with diesel generator back-up.

Haines Junction has a volunteer fire department, with staff trained in first aid and CPR. The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations also has fire halls and equipment located at Champagne and Canyon Creek.

Haines Junction village has a piped water supply that is also available to some parts of the First Nations villages. Other areas use trucked-in, chlorinated well water or personal wells.

Haines Junction is approximately 158 km west of Whitehorse on the Alaska Highway, at its junction with the Haines Highway. Both highways are substantial all-weather roads that connect the Yukon with Alaska in two directions. The community's geographic location has resulted in the development of a highway maintenance centre, gas stations and automotive repair services.

Territorial Agent services are provided through the Yukon Liquor Corporation facilities. These services include providing information and forms, accepting various applications, and issuing licences and

permits. An Employment Services Office also operates from April to November.

Mail is trucked in and out of the Haines Junction postal outlet five times a week. High-speed Internet access is available in the community.

Banking services are available five afternoons a week and there is an ATM in the general store.

Community facilities include an arena, curling rink, swimming pool, outdoor basketball court and skateboard park, community library with public Internet access, youth centre, and community halls at Haines Junction, Klukshu and Champagne. The Recycle Centre operates seven days a week, and provides weekly recyclables pick-up for residents within municipal boundaries.

RVs and campers can choose from six commercial RV sites that provide electricity and water hook-ups; two sites provide tenting space. The Yukon government and Kluane National Park also have campgrounds in the area. Three laundromats are available to travelers.

Automotive gas and diesel can be obtained at nine outlets. Two of the outlets also dispense propane. A full range of mechanical services is available, including towing.

There are six year-round and three seasonal motels, hotels and lodges. Six restaurants and a bakery/deli provide a full range of cuisine from fast food take-out to fine gourmet dining. Several B&B locations provide accommodation.

The General Store supplies fresh produce, groceries and hardware. Other retail outlets and services include a women's clothing store, ATV and snowmobile sales, a bakery and deli, and an art gallery. Gold jewelry and local First Nations crafts are sold through several home businesses.

Several ecotourism businesses provide a full range of experiences, including rafting, canoeing, horseback riding, dog-sled tours, cross-country skiing, fishing, llama treks, biking and hiking, as well as canoe and bicycle rentals. Flight services are available by helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft.

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

The St. Elias Convention Centre can be rented from the Village of Haines Junction. It includes a fully-equipped theatre with retractable tiered seating for 250. Kitchen facilities and several smaller rooms can be rented individually or as a unit and space is available for trade show displays and temporary exhibits. Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Yukon College campus also rent space.

Internet, email, photocopying and computer access are available at the public library and the Yukon College campus. The campus also offers video-conferencing and tele-conferencing. The municipal offices offer fax and photocopy service. Cell phone service is not available.

Heavy equipment rentals, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, drywall and painting contractors are available within the community.

Other accessible services include secretarial services, tax preparation and bookkeeping, courier and bus service to and from Whitehorse, an airport (with a gravel runway maintained year-round and fuel service), and web-page design and computer graphics.

COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Haines Junction, on average, is about 9 percent higher than that in Whitehorse. That average masks sharp differences in particular areas, however. Meat costs substantially less, being on a par with Whitehorse, while health and personal care cost substantially more.

The 2001 Census provided information on housing in the Village of Haines Junction. At that time there were 205 occupied dwellings. The average value placed on houses with two to three bedrooms was $138,000. Rental housing cost an average of $625 a month in 2001. Information from *Yukon Region First Nations Profiles* reports that 104 houses are administered by CAFN.

Haines Junction Price Survey

October 2003	*Whitehorse = 100*
Total Survey Items	109.4
Meat	100.2
Dairy/Eggs	105.6
Fruit/Veg.	109.9
Bread/Cereal	111.1
Other Foods	112.8
Household Operations	100.3
Health & Personal Care	144.9
Gasoline	106.4
Cigarette	105.9

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

The Haines Junction area offers much to all ages, interests and capabilities. It is an eclectic mix of resources, philosophies and nationalities. Kluane National Park and Reserve and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations provide rich scientific, educational and cultural elements. An influx of Swiss, German and Asian immigrants has added another dimension to the economy and to cultural diversity.

Multicultural learning and teaching is an integral part of life in Haines Junction. Languages spoken in the community include English, Southern Tutchone, French, German and Spanish. Language courses, including ESL, are sometimes offered at the Yukon College campus. The St. Elias Community School curriculum includes French and First Nation languages, and various cultural studies and events.

Kluane National Park and Reserve also offers educational programs for students and the public. CAFN often organizes cultural events such as potlatches, and the Dakwakada Dancers perform at public gatherings. The Society for Education and Culture hosts academic and "think-tank" symposia on a variety of cultural topics and hosts an active and varied performing-arts program.

Nestled at the base of Canada's highest mountains, Haines Junction offers a picturesque setting for artistic pursuits and an outdoor lifestyle. Clean air and water, acreage dwelling at Mackintosh, Pine Lake, and Willow Acres, and outdoor events encourage this. A 14-lot, limited agricultural subdivision is in the planning stages.

People have fun in Haines Junction while keeping healthy. A spacious hockey arena (and active hockey association), swimming pool, curling rink and school gym —complete with a climbing wall and fitness centre — keep the townspeople busy. Annual events include several Poker Runs (snowmachine and four-wheeler), Silver Sled Dog Musher

Race, Trail of 42 Road Race, Kluane-Chilkat International Bike Relay, Terry Fox Run, Run for Mom, Pine Lake Regatta, and several hockey tournaments, curling bonspiels and a broomball tournament.

More recreation is provided by the annual Alsek Music Festival and Kluane Mountain Bluegrass Festival, the 1016 Band, Village Bakery coffee houses and barbecues, Threadbearers Sewing and Quilting group, Yukon Trail Riding, bingo, snowboarding, skiing, walking on groomed wooded trails, Internet surfing, fishing, hunting, boating, berry-picking, taverns with music events, and watching videos. The main family events are Canada Day Celebrations, Halloween bonfire and fireworks, the Christmas Craft Sale and the school Christmas Concert.

Haines Junction has an active group of volunteers who contribute significant hours to community events and organizations. Residents take pride in hosting successful annual events that can double the population overnight. There are 44 active community organizations, many of which have operated for ten years or more.

Life in Haines Junction is discussed, advertised and recorded in the local newsletter, the *St. Elias Echo*.

CLIMATE

The weather conditions in Haines Junction are similar to those in Kluane National Park and Reserve. Because of its location north of the 60th parallel, winters in Kluane National Park and Reserve are long and dark (as few as four hours of light each day). Summers are generally warm, with long hours of daylight (up to 19 hours). The mean temperature is 11° Celsius in June and minus 21°C in January. At higher elevations the temperature is generally colder and weather is less predictable. Frost may occur at any time of year, and by the end of October there is ice on many of the lakes.

MORE INFORMATION

The Haines Junction municipal government can be reached at Village of Haines Junction, Box 5339, Haines Junction YT, Y0B 1L0, Phone: (867) 634-7100/01, Fax: (867) 634-2008.

For information on Haines Junction village see http://www.yukonweb.com/community/kluane/hj.html

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations provides more information at http://www.cafn.yk.net/

Details about the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations can be found in a book, *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*, published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1998. Information is also available on-line at http://sdiprod2.inac.gc.ca/FNProfiles/

For more information about the First Nation, go to http://www.yfnta.org/

For information about the Haines Junction campus of Yukon College, go to http://yukoncollege.yk.ca/ campuses/

For employment information email:
hjemploymentoffice@yukoncollege.yk.ca (April – November annually)

For information about community health, justice and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/

For information on occupations in the Yukon, working conditions, and the Yukon economy, see *Yukon WorkFutures* at http://www.workfutures.yk.ca

For information about the local environment, see the *Yukon State of the Environment Report* at http://www.taiga.net/yukonsoe/

For general information about the Yukon, see Yukon Fact Sheets at http://www.gov.yk.ca/facts/

The Strategis Business Map has some community information, links to Statistics Canada community information and a map system: http://commercecan.ic.gc.ca/scdt/bizmap/interface2.nsf/engdocBasic/O.html

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics has annual economic and statistical reviews at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/stats/index.html

For current job listings throughout the Yukon, check the Yukon office of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml

The Community of Mayo

There was a time when the placer gold and hardrock silver mines around Mayo drove the Yukon economy. Today the economic balance has shifted to other parts of the Territory, but placer mining and exploration continues. The community of Mayo still serves as distribution and service centre for the surrounding area. Mayo is located at the confluence of the Mayo and Stewart rivers in the heart of the Yukon, about 400 km northwest of Whitehorse. It lies within the traditional territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun (FNNND).

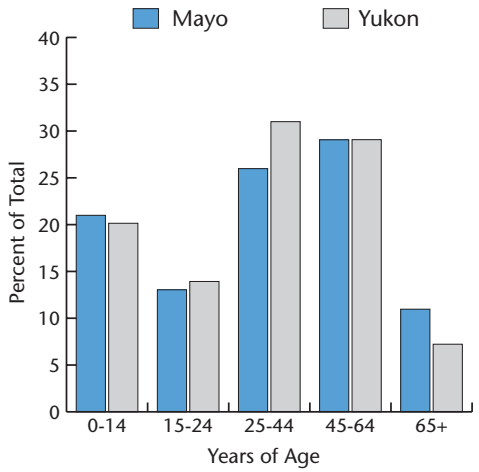
Mayo was originally established as a river settlement, and became the service centre for significant mining activity in the area. Silver, zinc and lead ores were loaded on sternwheelers at Mayo to be shipped to Whitehorse. An all-weather road linking Mayo with Whitehorse was completed in 1950. The Silver Trail, a scenic highway that begins at Stewart Crossing on the Klondike Highway, travels through Mayo and leads to the mining camp at Elsa and the Hamlet of Keno.

Beautiful scenery and extensive history make Mayo a significant tourist destination. The community is a convenient base for wilderness tourism, canoeing, hiking, big-game hunting and fly-in fishing.

Total Population

year	*population*
2003	409
2002	427
2001	441
2000	457
1999	458
1998	484
1997	503
1996	502
1995	485
1994	467
1993	466

Age Distribution



PEOPLE

The average population of the community of Mayo in 2003 was 409, showing a continual decline from an average of 503 in 1997. Prior to this, Mayo's population grew slightly at the start of the 1990s.

The First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, who live in and around Mayo, make up 60 to 70 percent of the community population, compared to First Nations representation of 23 percent for the Yukon overall.

Mayo has a settled multigenerational population. The 2001 Census reported that well over 80 percent of the people living in Mayo had also lived there in 1996. Fewer than 10 percent of the population had moved to Mayo from outside the Yukon in the five years prior to 2001, compared to 16 percent of the overall Yukon population.

There is a slightly larger proportion of children in the community of Mayo than in the overall Yukon population. There are more people over 65 years of age (11 percent), compared to the Yukon average of 7 percent. On the other hand, Mayo's population includes fewer people, proportionately, in the 25-to-44 age group, reflecting some earlier movement out of the area by people looking for work elsewhere.

At the end of 2003, 50 percent of Mayo's population was female, the same as the Yukon as a whole.

FIRST NATIONS

The Nacho Nyak Dun have lived and trapped throughout the northeast Yukon and Mayo Area for generations. The First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun is affiliated with the Northern Tutchone Council. Calculations generated by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 2004 for their internal purposes estimated the registered population of the FNNND at 460. Although a significant number of the First Nation's members live in the Mayo area, some live in other communities and outside the Territory. A large number of First Nations people living in the area are registered to other Yukon First Nations or other First Nations in Canada. First Nations' calculations of their population numbers may differ from Government of Canada figures and may include registered beneficiaries, non-beneficiary citizens and others.

The Nacho Nyak Dun are culturally affiliated with the Northern Tutchone people of the Selkirk First Nation and the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation. Northern Tutchone is a member of the Athapaskan language family. Some members of the Nacho Nyak Dun trace their ancestry to the Gwich'in people to the north and Mackenzie people to the east. The name "Nacho Nyak Dun" means "big river people."

Since earliest times, the people lived on the land, using the rich supply of game animals, fish, birds and vegetation in the area. They travelled throughout their traditional territory throughout the year. The people of the area followed a traditional moiety system of Crow and Wolf. The oral history of the Nacho Nyak Dun reveals early contacts and trade relationships with explorers and traders in the area. The First Nation have readily adapted to the dramatic changes of the last several decades, as mining interests and settlement expanded in the area and transportation routes were built. Many people found employment in the mines and in road maintenance; others maintained a traditional life on the land

Along with three other First Nations, the Nacho Nyak Dun signed their land claims and self-government agreements in 1993. The agreements came into effect in 1995. The FNNND was actively involved in land claims negotiations throughout the years and often played a decisive role in shaping the process. Under their Final Agreement, the FNNND are an important contributor to the establishment and management of the Ddhaw Ghro Special Management Area. The agreement also led to the designation of the Bonnet Plume River as a Canadian Heritage River. Since signing their Final Agreement, the First Nation government has implemented a number of local economic and social initiatives. The Nacho Nyak Dun Corporation is establishing a number of training, work and apprenticeship programs in the community. The First Nation is working toward participation in land developments in their traditional territory to safeguard the environment and ensure appropriate and orderly development. The First Nation government employs 59 people.

The Social Programs department of the FNNND has been taking new directions in community and individual healing through an intense cultural revival that includes language and traditional crafts programs, back-to-the-land activities, fish camps, hunting, and school programs. On an annual Wellness Day, people celebrate their culture, visit and share with community members and visitors.

THE ECONOMY

The economy of Mayo is linked to providing services for the people of Mayo and the surrounding area. Government services, including First Nation and territorial administration, provide about a third of the jobs in the community. Placer mining and mineral exploration provide a non-governmental economic base for the community.

Although construction provided a significant share of employment in 2001, it is a highly variable sector, especially in a small community, depending as it does on whether there is a sizeable project.

Over the long term, tourism is a growing segment of the local economy. Accommodation, food services, recreation services (such as guiding and outfitting) and retail outlets cater to tourists in the area and provide work for local residents. In 2001, about 15 percent of employment was reported in the accommodation, food services, recreation services and retail trade sectors. As construction employment returns to more usual levels, the share of employment provided by tourism-related activities increases. Tourist attractions in the area include the history of the mines around Mayo, Keno and Elsa, the Keno City Mining Museum, and the Binet House Interpretive Centre in Mayo, a restored heritage house containing historic photographs and an extensive geological display. Other tourist activities along the Silver Trail include camping and hiking along a section of the Trans Canada Trail, also known as the Prince of Wales Trail, hunting and fishing on local lakes and rivers, and other outdoors pursuits.

Mayo is a distribution centre for mining operations, and a centre for exploration and development work. The 1996 Census showed that some residents still worked in mining.

People in the area also hunt and fish for food.

WORK

At the time of the 2001 Census, about 74 percent of the Mayo population aged 15 and older said they were active in the labour market. This is quite a bit lower than the overall Yukon proportion of 79 percent. It reflects limitations in the community's economy and a general sense that work was not available in the area. Unemployment, as reported in the 2001 Census, was very close to the Yukon average. In contrast to the overall Yukon pattern, women in Mayo reported slightly higher unemployment than did men.

Young people in Mayo were a little less likely to be involved in the labour market than were young people in the overall Yukon population. Numbers in the Census are very small but the reported unemployment

rate for young people was 40 percent in 2001. Unemployment and the lack of long-term jobs are concerns of the First Nation, which has set a goal of developing long-term employment opportunities.

On average in 2003, 43 people in Mayo claimed employment insurance payments. The number of people claiming employment insurance has averaged from the low 30s to low 40s for much of the past ten years.

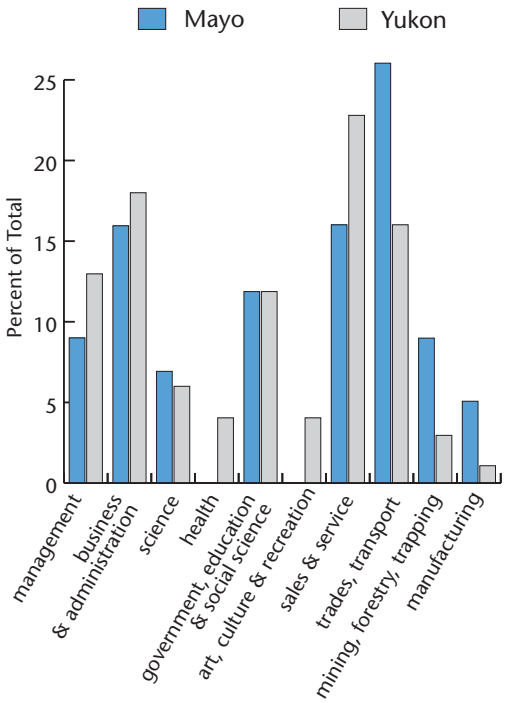
Relatively little work is full-time and full year in Mayo, reflecting the importance of seasonal, tourism-based work in the economy. The 2001 Census reported that people working full-time, full year accounted for only 30 percent of all workers in Mayo, far short of the 46 percent for the Yukon as a whole.

Self-employment, at 12 percent of all employment in Mayo, is marginally lower than for the Yukon as a whole.

Despite the lower proportion of people working on a full-time, full year basis in Mayo, average employment income for all workers, at $24,270, is just a little under 80 percent of the Yukon average (reported at $31,500 for 2000). Longer work hours in the summer season help make up for a shortage of work at other times.

At the time of the 2001 Census, about 12 percent of total employment in Mayo was in government and education occupations like teachers, social workers and assistants. These occupations also make up 12 percent of Yukon-wide employment. Other sizeable occupation fields related to government and business include management and administration. Management occupations have an almost 10-percent share in Mayo, compared to 13 percent in the Yukon as a whole. People in administration occupations are 17 percent of the Mayo workforce, compared to the Yukon average of 18 percent.

Employment Share by Occupation



Sales and service occupations, such as retail sales, guides, and food service workers, provide about 17 percent of total employment in Mayo, a little lower than the Yukon average of 23 percent.

In 2001, trades and transport occupations, such as construction workers, mechanics, or truck drivers, accounted for 27 percent of employment in Mayo. This matches the industry emphasis on high construction activity in that year. Occupations in mining, forestry and trapping accounted for 10 percent of employment.

EDUCATION

In the 2001 Census, nearly 49 percent of Mayo people aged 20 years or older reported having taken some non-university education or training after leaving school. Nearly 14 percent of people aged 20 and older had taken some university-level courses. About two-thirds of these, or close to 8 percent of those aged 20 years or older, had completed a university degree. Twenty-two percent reported that their highest level of education was some secondary school, and 14 percent said their highest level was less than Grade 9.

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Mining was a factor in the past for Mayo and could well be a factor in the future. While mining is weak throughout the Yukon, the Mayo area encompasses a number of new projects and an old, productive mine. All of them are potential sources of employment, but they are all waiting for the same thing: a turnaround in the price of precious and base metals. Although prices have recovered somewhat, in real terms, metal prices are near their lowest levels since modern mining started. In addition, most companies need to raise outside capital, which is difficult when the equity market does not favour an industry sector. As a result, development or production funds are hard to find, no matter how valuable the mineral deposit might be. Zinc, a mainstay of Yukon and Mayo-area mining, has started to see higher prices; these may continue to increase.

Keno Hill, the area's largest mine, is in receivership. The Dublin Gulch hardrock gold project is in the permit application process. Creating and extending tourism activity will provide more opportunities and jobs than will mining in the near term. Positive factors for tourism include the history of the area, the potential for combining trips to Dawson City and Mayo, local hiking routes, and a growing capacity to provide services for tourists. The development of adventure tourism businesses and the ability to offer a slate of activities are important factors in attracting tourists to the area for longer visits.

Administration and community development are becoming more important in Mayo. These fields require skills in financial areas, information handling, organizing people and computer use. Tourism occupations are varied, but will require small business management skills and very good communications skills.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Education from the elementary level to post-secondary level is available in Mayo. Kindergarten to Grade 12 is available at J. V. Clark School. Like all Yukon schools, the core curriculum (80%) follows the British Columbia Ministry of Education curriculum and students are eligible to write B.C. departmental exams. The community celebrated the opening of the new J.V. Clark School in August of 2002. The school was officially dedicated by the Prince of Wales during his visit in 2001. The facility was recognised as one of the top three "Green" buildings in Canada in the 2002 Sustainable Buildings competition in Oslo, Norway.

The Mayo Campus of Yukon College is co-located with J.V. Clark School. It has a tradition of working closely with local and territorial organizations, including the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, the Village of Mayo and local businesses. The campus offers full-time academic upgrading plus a broad range of other programs, courses, workshops and seminars, including plumbing and pipefitting, apprenticeship trades, driver training and clerical assistance courses. The campus also utilizes new distance education technologies to increase community access to courses and new forms of communication.

The Mayo Nursing Station is a community health centre with a full-time doctor and three community nurse practitioners. The doctor also serves Pelly Crossing and Carmacks. The Mayo Nursing Station holds regular clinics Monday to Friday. The centre also provides after-hours emergency service.

Policing is provided by a RCMP detachment of one corporal and two constables.

Community social services include a YTG Health and Social Services social worker and the Yukon Housing Corporation Office. Yukon Family Services provides counseling services for Mayo out of its Dawson City office.

FNNND offers social services to its members and, in certain cases, to the community. These include social services administration, a community health worker, elder's coordinator, Ethel Lake Outpost Camp and a housing department. Through additional partnerships with other governments, they are able to provide native courtworker services, homecare, alcohol and drug services, and a Human Resources Worker. The First Nation Lands Department is staffed by two GIS technicians, a resource officer, and a fisheries technician. The First Nation is central to the organization of many community activities, including the Mayo Community Wellness fair, New Year's Day Dinner, and Aboriginal Day celebrations.

The Village of Mayo provides a wide range of community and municipal services, including volunteer firefighting services. The recreation department offers recreational and leisure services that include the Mayo Winter Carnival, Canada Day Celebrations, Mayo Mountain Maniacs Triathlon, outdoor community pool, skating arena, Mayo Curling Rink, Community Fitness centre, community ballpark and batting cage, Prince of Wales Trail, and the Binet House Interpretive Centre and museum, which offers local crafts for sale. The village broadcasts five television and four radio channels and maintains a wide selection of parks and campgrounds within the community. In recent years several major projects have upgraded water and sewage main lines in the community. Recently the village organized and sponsored its 100-year-anniversary celebrations.

Ambulance services are provided by community volunteers through partnerships with the territorial government. Yukon Energy Corporation supplies electric power from the Mayo hydroelectric dam, backed up by a secondary diesel generator. In 2003 it completed a transmission line from Mayo to Dawson City. Yukon Community and Transportation Services maintains a 24-hour 365-day staffed weather station and community airport radio services at the Mayo airport.

The Yukon Territorial Agent provides services through the Yukon Liquor Corporation facilities in Mayo. These services include providing information and forms, accepting various applications, and issuing licences and permits.

The community is served by a Department of the Environment office, staffed by two conservation officers, a regional biologist and an administrative clerk. The territorial government maintains an Energy.

Mines and Resources Office with two natural resource officers, and a Mining Recorder's office with a Mining Recorder and a Mining Land-Use officer.

Post office service includes mail trucked Monday to Friday. High-speed internet service is available in the community. Banking services are available four days a week.

Road access is by the Silver Trail, which connects with the North Klondike Highway near Stewart Crossing. Whitehorse is 407 km south, a five-hour drive away. Dawson City is 235 km northwest on the Klondike Highway.

The community enjoys a wide range of volunteer organizations, including the Fly-By-Night Running Club (Mayo Midnight Marathon), Mayo Ranger Patrol and Mayo Junior Ranger Patrol, Royal Canadian Legion, Mayo Agricultural Society, Mayo District Renewable Resources Council, Women's Interdenominational Group, Mayo Community Club, Mayo Carnival, Stewart Valley Voice Newspaper and Mayo Wellness Team.

Tourist services in and around Mayo include two motels, three campgrounds, two restaurants, two service stations, a store, and various businesses catering to wilderness tours and fishing. Helicopter, float-plane and taxi services are also available. The Silver Trail area, including Keno, also offers a lodge, cabins and eating facilities for tourists.

Mayo Price Survey

October 2003	*Whitehorse = 100*
Total Survey Items	114.3
Meat	98.6
Dairy/Eggs	117.3
Fruit/Veg.	116.5
Bread/Cereal	117.8
Other Foods	113.4
Household Operations	121.6
Health & Personal Care	n.a.
Gasoline	110.7
Cigarettes	104.1

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

In Mayo, business services such as access to fax machines, use of a phone, and access to the Internet are often provided on a volunteer basis through community organizations. The Mayo Community Campus and Mayo Library serve as community Internet access portals and are available for public use during office hours. Most services are also available through the hotels for a fee. Cell phone access is not available in Mayo.

COST OF LIVING

Goods and services are consistently more expensive in Mayo than in Whitehorse. Some products, like meat and cigarettes, are close to the Whitehorse price. Others, like dairy products and fruit and vegetables, are substantially more expensive. On average, it costs about 14 percent more to live in Mayo than in Whitehorse.

The 2001 Census provided information on housing in the Village of Mayo. In 2001 there were 155 occupied dwellings; the average value of houses was reported as almost $60,000 for a two- to three-bedroom house. Rent paid for rental housing averaged $605 a month in 2001. FNNND reports that they currently manage 81-82 houses for their members.

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

Living in a small northern community can be a wonderful adventure for the right person. Not all people stay long enough to achieve the status of "sourdough", but the average "cheechako", or newcomer, will find a

community of pleasant and welcoming people. The winters are long but manageable if one accepts the fact that working at minus 30 is a lifestyle choice, not an inconvenience. There is little in the way of career hierarchy in the community and thus all your co-workers will be your peers.

The cross-cultural nature of the community provides vast rewards for those who choose to take part. The First Nations culture of living on and respect for the land gives a beautiful insight into how we choose to interact with the environment and relate to other community members. While turnover of community members happens to some extent, Mayo is blessed with a core group of people who have been there for generations and have raised children and grandchildren in the area. A long history has given the community deep roots.

The wilderness environment leaves newcomers little doubt as to what to take advantage of. Boredom is never an option, given the natural playground available in Mayo's backyard. Adventures on the land and water await them.

CLIMATE

The central Yukon, where Mayo is located, experiences the greatest range of annual temperatures of any place in North America. Mayo holds the Yukon high-temperature record, based on June 14, 1969, when the thermometer peaked at 36.1 degrees Celsius. The lowest the temperature has dropped in Mayo is minus 62.2 C, recorded on February 3, 1947. Mayo also holds the Canadian record for the greatest range of absolute temperatures, a difference of 98.3 degrees Celsius between the extreme high and extreme low.

Historical weather records over the past three decades show that the average daytime temperature in January in Mayo is minus 20.5 Celsius, dropping to minus 31 C at night. In July the daytime average was close to plus 23 C; at night the temperature dropped to about 9 C. Annual precipitation averages 313 millimetres. This includes 205 mm of rain and 147 centimetres of snow.

MORE INFORMATION

Community and business service information for Mayo is available at http://www.yukonweb.com/community/mayo/

The municipal government can be contacted at Village of Mayo, Box 160, Mayo YT, Y0B 1M0, Phone: (867) 996-2317, Fax: (867) 996-2907.

Information about the Mayo campus of Yukon College can be found at http://yukoncollege.yk.ca/campuses/

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/

Details about the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun can be found in a book, *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*, published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1998. Information is also available on-line at http://sdiprod2.inac.gc.ca/FNProfiles/

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The Community of Old Crow

Old Crow is the most northerly community in the Yukon, and the only community that can't be reached by road. In some years a temporary winter road is constructed. Old Crow is located on the banks of the Porcupine River, north of the Arctic Circle about 800 kilometres north of Whitehorse. It is the home of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

According to archaeological evidence, the Old Crow area might be the site of the earliest human occupation in North America. The record of people in the area can be traced back about 15,000 years. The community of Old Crow became a year-round settlement in the 1950s with the building of a school and store. Before this, the site was a gathering spot for hunting and for trade along the Porcupine River.

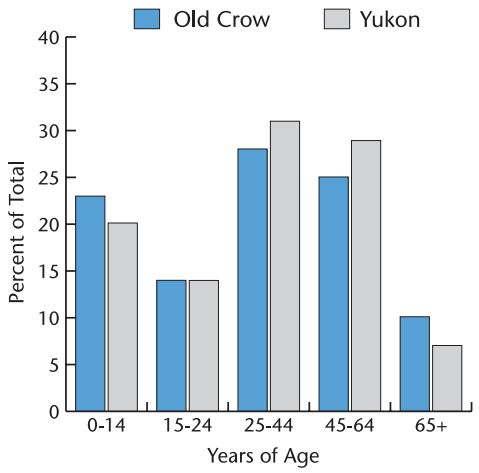
Old Crow is almost next door to Vuntut National Park, which was created in 1995 as a result of the Vuntut Gwitchin land claims settlement. The park and an adjacent Special Management Area encompass much of Old Crow Flats, a world-renowned wetland. They are jointly managed by government and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation is part of the Gwich'in people whose traditional territory extends across parts of Alaska, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. Although the people of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation live a traditional life, relying heavily on the Porcupine Caribou herd, they also participate in higher education, are active in Yukon governing bodies and travel widely for work and pleasure. They are at home in both worlds.

Total Population

year	*population*
2003	265
2002	275
2001	280
2000	287
1999	294
1998	292
1997	302
1996	286
1995	270
1994	261
1993	272

Age Distribution



PEOPLE

The population of Old Crow was approximately 265 in 2003. The population varied between 260 and 300 through the past decade.

Old Crow is predominantly a First Nations community. About 90 percent of the population is made up of members of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

Predictably in a traditional community, most residents have lived in the area for a long time. However, many young people and adults leave for a time to pursue education or to look for work. The 2001 Census indicated that over 75 percent of Old Crow's population had lived in the community for at least five years. About 11 percent of people living in Old Crow in 2001 had come to Old Crow from outside of the Yukon, lower than the 14 percent for the overall Yukon population.

The age distribution of the Old Crow population is now fairly close to that of the Yukon as a whole. There are proportionately a few more children in the community, with 23 percent of the population aged 14 or under. This compares with 20 percent in the Yukon overall. The 15-to-24 age group makes up 14 percent of the total, the same as the Yukon average. Proportionately more people are over 65 years of age: 10 percent of Old Crow residents, compared to 7 percent Yukon-wide.

Working-age adults, those aged 25 to 64, make up a lower proportion of the total population than the Yukon average. This gap in the population reflects the lack of market work in Old Crow and a pattern of adults leaving the community, at least for a time, in order to find work.

As in the Yukon as a whole, 50 percent of the population is female.

FIRST NATIONS

The Vuntut Gwitchin of the Northern Yukon belong to the Athapaskan language family and their traditional area of use extends far into Alaska and the Northwest Territories, which they share with other Gwich'in groups. One of the oldest archaeological sites of North America, the Bluefish Caves Site, is located in the Vuntut Gwitchin's traditional territory. The ancient ancestors of the Gwich'in have inhabited the land for at least 15,000 years, according to archaeological findings. The people of Old Crow are known as the Vuntut Gwitchin; their close relatives who lived in the Blackstone area are known as the Tukudh (Dagoo); and the people of the Peel River area are known as the Tetlit Gwich'in. Close relatives reside in the Alaskan villages of Fort Yukon and Arctic Village, and they are visited frequently.

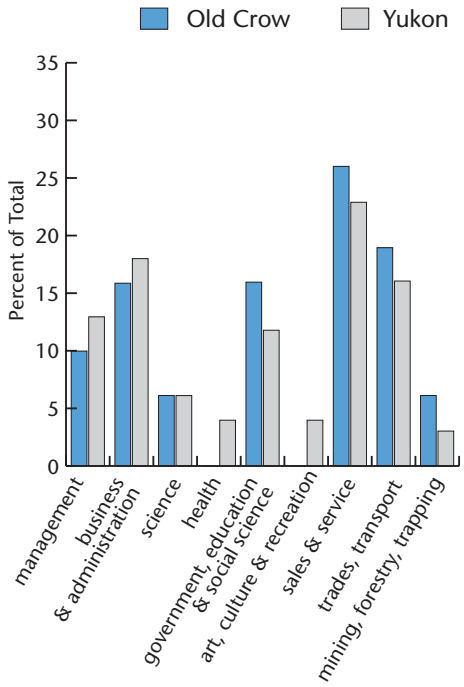
The Vuntut Gwitchin followed a nomadic way of life and hunted caribou as a main source of their diet. The Porcupine Caribou herd remains a main staple of their diet today. In earlier times, they also relied heavily on the muskrat population that continues to be harvested at Crow Flats. Prior to settling in the village of Old Crow, a traditional hunting and fishing place, the Vuntut Gwitchin lived in Fort Yukon, Johnson House and LaPierre House and Whitestone Village, among other locations. They moved to Rampart House, a trading post, in 1867 when the U.S./Canada border was established.

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation reported an enrolled beneficiary membership of 756 in 2004. Some First Nations members may not live and work in the community throughout the year. The First Nation administers most services in Old Crow and is actively involved in protecting a traditional lifestyle for its people.

Along with three other First Nations, the Vuntut Gwitchin signed their land claims and self-government agreements in 1993. The agreements came into effect in 1995. The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement follows the structure laid out in the Umbrella Final Agreement but contains provisions specific to them. In particular, it helps safeguard the habitat of the Porcupine Caribou herd through the establishment of

the Vuntut National Park. This park is managed cooperatively with Parks Canada and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. The Vuntut Development Corporation is investing in a variety of business ventures, from Yukon airline Air North to a variety of local service businesses.

Employment Share by Occupation



The First Nation government administration is based in new premises, the Abel-Chitzé Building, where they enjoy modern office conveniences, including high-speed internet. The recent establishment of a fully equipped film and video-editing suite has permitted the First Nation to produce videos and train people in production. Two videos have been made and aired on the national Aboriginal People's Television Network. Three film festivals have been attended so far and others are planned to promote the videos.

THE ECONOMY

The economy of Old Crow and the Vuntut Gwitchin is largely traditional and subsistence-based. Many people rely on traditional hunting, fishing, and trapping activities for food. The Vuntut Gwitchin people have relied on the Porcupine Caribou herd for generations. They use the caribou for food, as well as for hides, clothing, and other purposes; people make sure that no part of the caribou is wasted. Some seasonal work in hunting and fishing also provides income.

A very limited market-based economy in Old Crow supplements traditional activities. Government services provide a significant share of total employment in the market, or money, economy. More than half of measurable employment falls into this category. Government services in Old Crow include the First Nation government and administration of services for First Nation members, as well as territorial and other government services like policing.

Since the Vuntut Gwitchin Council is responsible for providing most services in Old Crow, First Nation government employment includes such things as construction, building maintenance water and fuel delivery and similar services. First Nation government activities also involve social services and support for the elderly. Other First Nation employees find seasonal work in projects run by the First Nation or in seasonal federal and territorial jobs.

Education and health care also provide some employment. The Northern Store employs several people from the community. Other industry sectors either offer no employment in Old Crow or in numbers too small to measure.

WORK

In Old Crow, the proportion of adults involved in the market economy and labour market is smaller than for the Yukon as a whole, although it is increasing. The 2001 Census indicates that 73 percent of Old Crow residents over 15 said they were involved in the formal labour

market. The average across the Territory was 80 percent. Even with the lower participation in the market economy, unemployment is higher in Old Crow than for the Yukon in general.

Lack of work is a particular concern for young adults in the community. About 60 percent of those aged 15 to 24 reported being involved in the labour market in 2001. The Yukon-wide level of involvement is closer to 70 percent. This lower participation rate is an indication of few work opportunities. Some young people do not expect to find work and simply do not become involved in the formal labour market.

The number of people claiming employment insurance varies but in 2003 was too low to be reported.

Work in the Old Crow area is less likely to be full-time, full year than the Yukon average. The 2001 Census reported that 32 percent of all workers were working full-time, full year, compared with 46 percent for the Yukon as a whole.

In 2001, about 7 percent of Old Crow residents working in the market economy reported that they were mainly self-employed. The Yukon-wide equivalent is 13 percent.

The employment share by occupation in Old Crow reflects the concentration of work in government services and other services like teaching, health care or maintenance. The largest share of work is in sales or service occupations, such as homecare support, or childcare. Other people work in administration, management, or trades.

EDUCATION

According to information in the 2001 Census, about 50 percent of Old Crow people aged 20 years or older have taken some non-university education or training after leaving school. A further 18 percent of the same age group said that their highest level of education was some secondary school; 20 percent reported completing Grade 9 or less.

About 10 percent had taken some university-level education. More than three-quarters of this group — 8 percent of the population over 20 years of age — had completed a university degree.

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The people of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation are concerned about maintaining their traditional lifestyle. They have lobbied to ensure that the breeding ground of the Porcupine Caribou herd is not affected by developments in Alaska, and that their rights, and the rights of the larger Gwich'in Nation, to pursue traditional activities are supported.

With support from the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy, the Vuntut Gwitchin are also looking at economic and community development projects that could provide employment

opportunities. Although the Vuntut Gwitchin are isolated by distance and lack of road access or easy transportation, they have made effective use of the Internet to link to the outside world.

Nearby Vuntut National Park and Ni'iinlii' Njik Wilderness Preserve and Ecological Reserve could provide some employment for Old Crow residents in the future. Ni'iinlii' Njik includes Bear Cave Mountain and the Fishing Branch River, where spawning salmon attract grizzly bears each fall. The First Nation is a full partner in wildlife and wildlife habitat management in both the park and the Wilderness Preserve and Ecological Reserve. Vuntut Gwitchin people will be a major part of future research, administration and enforcement.

Old Crow is far off the beaten path, but it is likely that there will be tourist interest in the area. Attractions include pristine wilderness areas near the community, Vuntut National Park, and the culture and traditional lifestyle of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. Visitors, especially government representatives and scientists, already travel to Old Crow. Further accommodation and food services might be provided for them.

The skills required to operate accommodation and food services will be very important in establishing tourism activity in Old Crow or providing more services for government or business visitors. Communication skills are also important, both in using the Internet for marketing and in providing information and services to visitors. Other emerging needs are community development skills, in both economic and social services fields.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Chief Zzeh Gittlit School is a beautiful new building with gymnasium, shops, and a modern computer lab. It offers kindergarten to Grade 9. Students walk there or take the bus. Most students still move to Whitehorse to complete high school; sometimes their families accompany them, alternatively they live in dorms or board with relatives or friends. Eventually higher grades may be available in the community. Gwich'in language and Gwich'in life have been incorporated into the local curriculum, which otherwise follows the B.C. curriculum. The school is an integral part of community life. The new gymnasium is used almost every night for various activities. In addition, the students spend time on the land and at the school's wilderness cabin during the school year.

The Old Crow campus of Yukon College, — renamed the Alice Frost Community Campus, opened its doors in 1987. Alice Frost was instrumental in bringing about the new building that houses the college. The campus, in partnership with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, offers training to meet the needs of the youth and adult population in the community. College programs have included wilderness tourism, carpentry apprenticeship, computers, accounting, adult education in science, mathematics, and English, small engine repair, driver training

(class 3-7), and arctic plumbing, as well as culture-based classes, such as traditional sewing and toboggan-making, taught by community members.

Old Crow has a community health centre, which is staffed by two community nurses and is open weekdays. A doctor is available around the middle of each month. Emergency services are available at any time.

YTG Health and Social Services has a social worker providing services in the community.

The RCMP operates a detachment in Old Crow with one corporal and two constables. Old Crow is also served by a probation officer who visits monthly from Whitehorse and by circuit court.

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Health and Social Programs Department provides community social development services, including in-home adult care, supportive counseling and referral, and native courtworker services.

The Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd supplies power via a diesel generating plant.

VGFN and YTG maintain the local roads, water and sewer, and fire protection.

Mail is flown in and out on weekdays and is available for pick-up between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Northern Store. Other goods are brought in by air freight.

High-speed access to the Internet is available in the community and the nursing station has video-conference facilities.

Banking is done through the TD Canada Trust and is located in the Northern Store.

St. Luke's Anglican Church services are led by lay readers at 11 a.m. on Sundays. The picturesque log church, which sits by the riverbank, has notable stained glass windows and extensive beadwork.

Access to Old Crow is by air, with a gravel airstrip. There is regularly scheduled service six days a week from Whitehorse, excluding Saturday. Occasionally, winter roads are built to upgrade community services; for example, to bring in a new water truck and new sewer truck. Some people bring in their own vehicles. Scrap metals were also removed from the community dump and taken for recycling.

The Northern Store sells groceries and some dry goods, and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation runs a gasoline outlet. Other services include Ch'oo Deenjik Accommodations, Porcupine B&B, Frostie's Java (a small business run by four teenaged girls), a fitness centre and a cross-country ski lodge. Order-in food services are available from Whitehorse through Super A Foods.

In the summer, people travel on foot, bicycles or ATVs; in the winter they travel on foot or snowmobiles. A few private vehicles operate on the small network of dirt roads. To travel beyond the community, people use boats in the summer and snowmobiles or dog teams in the winter.

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

There are pay phones at the airport, the RCMP detachment and the VGFN office. Yukon College offers free access to the Internet and email. Ch'oo Deenjik Accommodations and Porcupine B&B are open year-round for business people and others visiting the community. Old Crow is "dry" — alcohol cannot be brought into the community.

COST OF LIVING

There is no comparative price survey for Old Crow. Since goods come into the community by air freight, the cost of products from outside is high.

The 2001 Census identified 120 occupied private dwellings in Old Crow. The average value was $72,700 for a house averaging two bedrooms. Rental housing cost an average of $500 a month in 2001.

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

Old Crow is the most northwesterly village in Canada. Although situated above the Arctic Circle, there are many evergreen trees in this village and the surrounding wilderness. The scenic Porcupine River runs along the southern edge of the village. In winter, the northern lights often dance in pink and green during the long nights, as the dog teams and wolves howl under the Arctic sky. In the three months of summer, the 24-hour daylight might generate a baseball game at 2 a.m. The ever-popular snowmobiles are replaced with ATVs, as the town continues to use its few miles of road.

The Vuntut Gwitchin people, who make up over 90 percent of the population, have lived in this country for centuries. Because they are so close to the land and depend on country foods such as caribou, moose, salmon and whitefish, the village has a very traditional flavour. Berry picking and muskrat trapping are still common activities in a town where people enjoy getting out in the bush and may have a cabin out on the land. Community meetings often include feasts with traditional foods. Special holidays and events are usually celebrated with Gwich'in jigging, square-dancing and fiddling.

CLIMATE

The climate in Old Crow reflects its location north of the Arctic Circle. Information on weather from 1971 to 2000 showed an average daytime temperature in January of minus 27 degrees Celsius, dropping overnight to minus 36 C. In July the daytime average was plus 21 degrees C, with night temperatures averaging close to 9 degrees C. Annual precipitation over this time period averaged 266 mm, including 144 millimetres of rain and 129 centimetres of snow. Wind is common.

MORE INFORMATION

For information on Old Crow, see the community's website at http://www.oldcrow.yk.net/

For information about the Old Crow campus of Yukon College, go to http://yukoncollege.yk.ca/campuses/

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/

Details about the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation can be found in a book, *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*, published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1998. Information is also available on-line at http://sdiprod2.inac.gc.ca/FNProfiles/

Another source of information is *The Land Still Speaks* by Erin Sherry and the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation*, published in 1999 by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and available through http://www.yukonbooks.com.

For further information about the First Nation, Phone 867-966-3261, Fax 867-966-3800 or go to http://www.yfnta.org/

For information on occupations in the Yukon, working conditions, and the Yukon economy, see *Yukon WorkFutures* at http://www.workfutures.yk.ca

For information about the local environment, see the *Yukon State of the Environment Report* at http://www.taiga.net/yukonsoe/

For general information about the Yukon, see Yukon Fact Sheets at http://www.gov.yk.ca/facts/

The Strategis Business Map has some community information, links to Statistics Canada community information, and has a map system: http://commercecan.ic.gc.ca/scdt/bizmap/interface2.nsf/engdocBasic/O.html

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics has annual economic and statistical reviews at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts./eco/stats/index.html

For current job listings throughout the Yukon, check the Yukon office of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml; Yukon Work Infonet at www.yuwin.ca and the classified sections of the *Yukon News* and *Whitehorse Star* newspapers

For information on flying to Old Crow, contact Air North at http://www.flyairnorth.com.

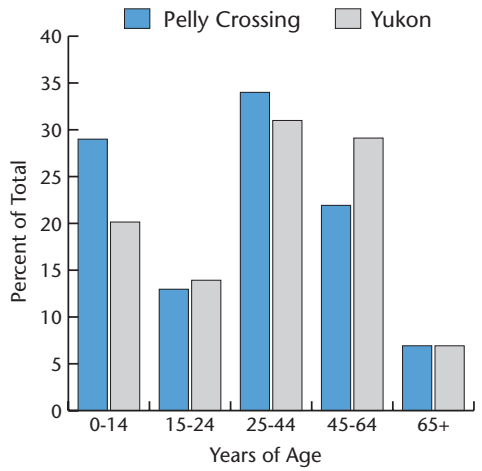
The Community of Pelly Crossing

Originally, Pelly Crossing was used by Selkirk people as a campsite along the way to Ta'Tla Mun. In the early 1900s, Ira and Eliza Van Bibber established a homestead at the mouth of Mica Creek, where they raised their family. The surrounding area started developing as a ferry crossing over the Pelly River and a construction camp for workers building the Klondike highway. The people of the First Nation had settled near the traditional site of Fort Selkirk on the Yukon River. The construction of the highway, meant the end of many river communities like Fort Selkirk, and the townsite was virtually abandoned. The Selkirk First Nation was relocated to Pelly Crossing to centralize services and make administration easier. The community of Pelly Crossing is located along the Klondike Highway and on the bank of the Pelly River, 282 kilometres northwest of Whitehorse and 254 km southeast of Dawson City.

Total Population

year	*population*
2003	277
2002	283
2001	296
2000	289
1999	284
1998	287
1997	303
1996	290
1995	291
1994	297
1993	293

Age Distribution



PEOPLE

Pelly Crossing's 2003 population of 277 is at the lowest point it has been for the past several years.

Pelly is predominantly a First Nations community. The 2001 Census indicated that First Nation members made up over 85 percent of the community population. In addition, a few non-First Nations people live and work in Pelly Crossing.

There has been little movement into Pelly Crossing during the past decade. The 2001 Census reported that just about 20 percent of residents had moved into the community during the previous five years. Some of these movers will be people who have moved from other provinces to take up positions in the community; others will have moved within the Yukon. It is also likely that some of those moving into Pelly Crossing will be returning residents who had previously moved away to work elsewhere.

The percentage of the population that is female is 51, just over the Yukon average of 50 percent.

Pelly Crossing has proportionately more children than the Yukon's overall average. Nearly 24 percent of the Pelly population is aged 14 or under, compared to 20 percent Yukon-wide. The proportion of youth, aged 15 to 24, is about the same as for the Yukon as a whole. The 25-to-44 age group is also well represented. The share in the 45-to-64 year age group, reflecting the older working-age

adults, is 22 percent, somewhat lower than the Yukon average of 29 percent. This suggests that some people have left the community to look for work elsewhere.

FIRST NATIONS

Pelly Crossing is the home of the Selkirk First Nation, part of the Northern Tutchone cultural and language group and a participant in the Northern Tutchone Council. Northern Tutchone is a member of the Athapaskan language family. Calculations generated by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 2004 for their internal purposes estimated the registered population of the Selkirk First Nation at 495, many of whom live in other communities. First Nations' calculations of their population numbers may differ from Government of Canada figures and may include registered beneficiaries, non-beneficiary citizens and others. The Council handles administration of community affairs. Pelly Crossing became the more permanent home of the Selkirk First Nation after the construction of the Klondike Highway in the 1950s. Previously, the Northern Tutchone people headquartered at Fort Selkirk and Minto for parts of the year while hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering in the yearly round throughout their traditional areas. With the completion of the highway, the Fort Selkirk people moved to Minto and later to Pelly Crossing. As Minto was abandoned, some people moved to Pelly, some to Mayo, some to Carmacks, some to Dawson and some to Whitehorse.

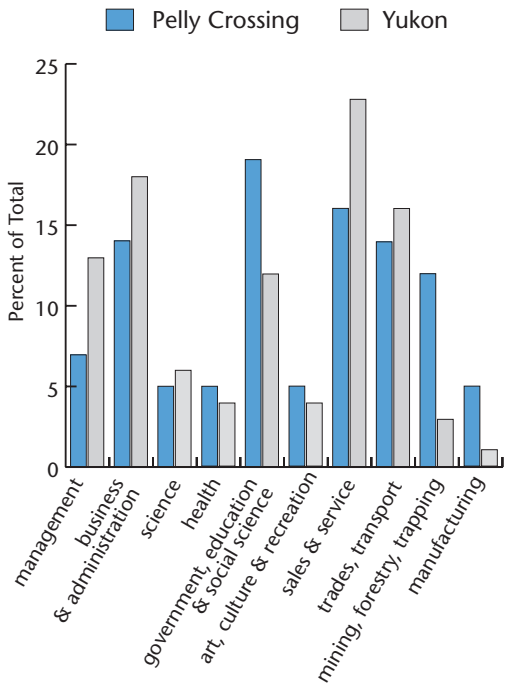
The Selkirk First Nation people are closely affiliated with the Northern Tutchone groups of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation. Some members trace their ancestry to the Southern Tutchone people of adjoining areas. The Selkirk First Nation people practice the traditional moiety structure of Wolf and Crow, an integral part of which is the potlatch system.

Fort Selkirk is the location of a fur-trading fort established by Hudson's Bay Company explorer Robert Campbell in the 1840s. The fort was later burned by the Coastal Tlingits, and was rebuilt at the present site in 1850. Today, Fort Selkirk is an important heritage site and is co-managed by the Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon. Many Selkirk First Nation members are employed on an annual basis, working on restoration and maintenance of the grounds and buildings at the site and interpreting the history of the site and of the Selkirk people.

In recent years, the Selkirk First Nation has been working toward community healing and revival of their traditional culture and history to deal with the effects of mission school and the associated problems. A healing camp has been constructed and a cultural museum has been established. Traditional activities such as summer fish camps and winter camping are supported through First Nations programs. Selkirk First Nation people are actively involved with other First Nations in the Yukon in the revival of stick-gambling, traditional songs and dances, and storytelling.

The Selkirk First Nation signed their land claims and self-government agreements in the summer of 1997 at a ceremony held at Minto. The agreements are being implemented. The First Nation will participate in development projects in their traditional territory, and in management of fishing and wildlife. Ta'Tla Mun, Llutsaw Wetland and Ddhaw Ghro were identified as Special Management Areas in the Final Agreement, and will be designated as Habitat Protection Areas. The Fort Selkirk site is jointly owned, planned, and managed by the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon government. The Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan, which came into effect in 2000, guides management, interpretation and preservation at the site. The First Nation is also spearheading the Dooli Traditional Law project.

Employment Share by Occupation



THE ECONOMY

Pelly Crossing's economy is based on a narrow range of activities. The government services, education and health sectors provide most of the market work. The main employer in the community is the Selkirk First Nation government, which provides work for about 20 people. Some people who normally live in Pelly Crossing move elsewhere for at least part of the year to find work.

The historic site of Fort Selkirk provides seasonal work for Selkirk First Nation members through a management agreement with the Yukon Heritage Branch. Employees work on restoration and maintenance of the historic townsite and maintenance of the campground.

Traditional activities also play a role in the Pelly Crossing economy. Many people get a significant portion of their food supply from hunting and fishing, and some earn cash through trapping.

WORK

At the time of the 2001 Census, about 83 percent of Pelly Crossing's adult population reported that they were involved in the formal labour market. This is only a little lower than the overall Yukon proportion. With a limited economy and few job opportunities available in the community, unemployment is very high: 30 percent of those in the labour force reported being unemployed in 2001, compared to the Yukon unemployment rate of 12 percent at the time of the Census. Unemployment is especially high for men, with nearly 40 percent reporting that they were unemployed. Unemployment for women stood at about 20 percent.

Close to 70 percent of the young people in Pelly Crossing reported being involved in the formal labour force. Of these, about half were unemployed. This compares with a 22-percent youth unemployment rate across the Yukon in 2001.

This pattern of high unemployment for community residents is borne out by employment insurance numbers. In 2003, an average of 36

individuals claimed employment insurance payments. The number of people claiming income from employment insurance has averaged more than 30 throughout the early 2000s.

The 2001 Census indicates that only a third of the workers in Pelly Crossing work full-time for the full year, compared to almost one half Yukon-wide. This confirms local information indicating that full-time, full year work is rare. Some adults are likely to move, for at least part of the year, to find work.

Most who are employed in the community work in service occupations, such as home care, sales and food services, or in social science, education, and government service occupations such as teaching and social work. Other important occupations in Pelly Crossing are in construction trades and transport fields. Some people find employment in management and administration; others work in primary industry occupations, such as mining, trapping, or forestry. The numbers of people working in fields like health or arts are very small.

EDUCATION

The 2001 Census indicates that about 70 percent of Pelly Crossing's population aged 20 years or older have taken some non-university education or training after leaving school. Less than 10 percent of that age group said that their highest level of education was some secondary school. About 12 percent reported that they had completed Grade 9 or less; 12 percent said they had taken some university-level education, most of them reporting having completed a degree.

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Selkirk First Nation is trying to improve the economic and work situation in Pelly Crossing through education and training.

Ventures to attract tourists to the community and keep them there appear to be one option for new economic development. Tourism is increasingly important to the overall Yukon economy. Pelly Crossing has some potential for development in this field since the community is on a major tourist route to Dawson City. The Selkirk First Nation's Heritage and Interpretive Centre is a cultural attraction that can divert tourists from the highway. Fort Selkirk has tourism and economic potential.

In addition, Pelly Crossing is located close to Ddhaw Ghro (formerly known as McArthur Wildlife Sanctuary), Ta'Tla Mun (formerly Tatlmain Lake), a high-quality fly-in sportfishing lake, and to Llutsaw (formerly Von Wilczek Lakes), an important wetland complex. All three areas lie in the Traditional Territory of the Selkirk First Nation and have been identified as Special Management Areas under their Final Agreement. Development of management plans for these areas may allow the First Nation to build on the ecotourism potential.

The economic development approach being taken in Pelly Crossing — looking for tourism opportunities, especially in ecotourism — will require people to upgrade their skills to operate small business ventures. The Selkirk Development Corporation is reviewing other economic opportunities for the community.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Students can attend school from kindergarten to Grade 12 in Pelly Crossing at the Eliza Van Bibber School. The Pelly Crossing Campus of Yukon College is located in the Selkirk First Nation's previous administration office. The Northern Tutchone name of the campus, Hets'edan ku', means "learning house." Staff at Hets'edan ku', in partnership with the Selkirk First Nation, offer programming that is locally relevant. Programs and courses include academic upgrading, computer, accounting, office administration, pre-trades, oil and gas entry-level preparation, art and culture, and youth employment preparation, Additional courses are made available via videoconferencing and include such credentialed courses as early childhood education, accounting and academic upgrading.

Pelly Crossing is served by a local community health centre, which has regular hours from Monday to Friday. This centre also provides 24-hour emergency service. A social worker is located in the Selkirk First Nation office.

The RCMP operates a detachment in Pelly Crossing, staffed by a corporal and two constables. Probation officer and native courtworker services are provided from Mayo.

The Selkirk First Nation administers community infrastructure, such as water, sewer, local road maintenance, community recreation, and fire protection.

A chief and six volunteers provide fire department services.

Diesel generators operated by the Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd. provide electricity.

Road access is by an all-weather paved highway from Whitehorse. There is also road access to Carmacks, Dawson City, Faro, and Ross River.

Mail is trucked in three times a week.

Banking services are provided in Pelly Crossing.

Community facilities include the Heritage Centre, a community hall, a youth centre, and a newly renovated recreation centre that includes an arena and curling rink.

A convenience store/gas station and motel is located beside the highway and Heritage Centre. There is a 24-hour card lock system for obtaining gas. There is a sewage disposal area for mobile homes, as well as a place to refill water

supplies. There are laundry and shower facilities as well. Across from the store and off the highway close to the river is a newly-renovated campground, which is free of charge.

During the summer, Penny's Place operates as a fast-food outlet. It provides hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream, cappuccino, coffee and cold drinks. Penny's also operates a small gift shop. Sandwiches, coffee, drinks and snack food are available at the grocery store throughout the year.

Minto Resorts, on the Yukon River, is owned by the Selkirk Development Corporation and provides an RV campground and tour bus lunch stop during the summer tourist season. It is located about 30 km from Pelly Crossing.

There is no hotel in Pelly Crossing but the store has six hotel rooms that are available year-round.

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

There is limited access to the Internet and email at the Pelly Crossing Community Library. The library is located at the newly renovated Eliza Van Bibber School.

COST OF LIVING

Although cost-of-living information is not available for Pelly Crossing, costs in Carmacks, located about 100 km south of Pelly Crossing, are about 9 percent higher than in Whitehorse. A higher cost of living is very likely in Pelly Crossing.

The 2001 Census reported 120 dwellings in Pelly Crossing. It sets an average cost at just over $60,000 for a two-bedroom house. The cost of rental housing averaged close to $550 a month in 2001.

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

Pelly Crossing is situated in a beautiful valley, with the Pelly River flowing through it. Though it is a relatively small community, it has several recreational facilities. The Tommy McGinty Baseball Park is well used in the summer. A new recreation centre was completed in the summer of 2004 that joined the arena and curling rink. A curling bonspiel is held yearly. The Youth Centre has exercise equipment, TV and VCR, a pool table and foozball table, and supplies for crafts and games.

Both hunting and fishing are important community activities as well as a source of food. When the salmon run takes place, the village vacates and people move to their cabins, or fish camps, near the river. Fish are caught and preserved for winter use.

The residents of Pelly are very involved with stick-gambling. There are three groups of teams: Adult (mixed men and women), Women, and Youth. They practise and compete during the winter and spring.

Usually, in June there is a Yukon-wide competition. In the past, one or another of the Pelly teams has won first prize.

CLIMATE

While weather can vary considerably, information on weather conditions collected at the Pelly Ranch weather reporting station over the 1971-to-2000 period showed the average daytime temperature in January reached about minus 22 degrees Celsius, dropping to close to minus 33 degrees C overnight. In July the daytime temperature averaged over 22 degrees C, with overnight temperatures moving down to about 8 degrees C. Annual precipitation over the 30-year period totaled 310 millimetres, including 198 mm of rain and about 113 centimetres of snow.

Weather information has been recorded in the area since 1899. At first, weather information was gathered at Fort Selkirk and forwarded to Environment Canada; later, the reporting site was moved to the Pelly River Ranch. The ranch is about 45 km west of Pelly Crossing by road, in the same river valley as the community.

MORE INFORMATION

To contact the Selkirk First Nation phone (867) 537-3331; the Selkirk Development Corporation can be contacted at (867) 537-3710.

For information about Hets'edan ku', the Pelly Crossing campus of Yukon College, go to http://yukoncollege.yk.ca/campuses/

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/

Details about the Selkirk First Nation can be found in a book, *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*, published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1998. Information is also available on-line at http://sdiprod2.inac.gc.ca/FNProfiles/

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The Strategis Business Map has some community

information, links to Statistics Canada community information and a map system: http://commercecan.ic.gc.ca/scdt/bizmap/interface2.nsf/engdocBasic/O.html

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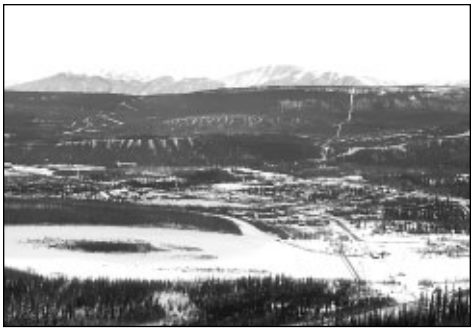
For current job listings throughout the Yukon, check the Yukon office of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml

The Community of Ross River

Ross River is the home of the Ross River Dena Council. The community lies 360 kilometres northeast of Whitehorse near the junction of the Campbell Highway and the Canol Road. The area around Ross River is well known for its hunting and fishing resources.



Originally, First Nations people used the site as a seasonal camp and gathering place. In the early 1900s, prospecting and mining increased in the area, and a trading post was established nearby in 1903. In the early 1940s, the American army built the Canol Pipeline, from Norman Wells in the Northwest Territories to Whitehorse, and the accompanying Canol Road opened the Ross River area to overland traffic. Government offices were established in Ross River after the Second World War. In 1962, Ross River was relocated to its current site close to the Campbell Highway, across from the Campbell River.

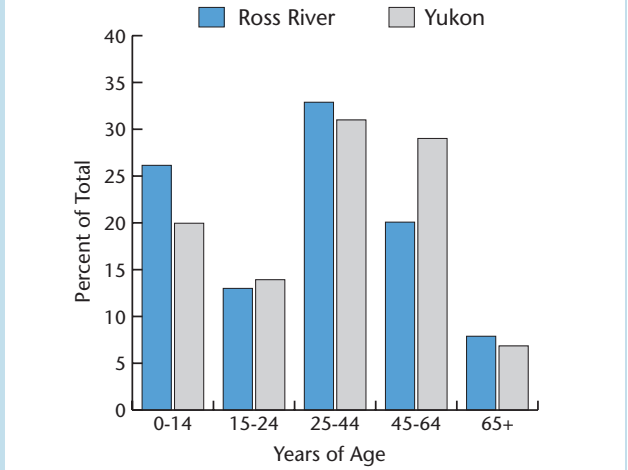
Total Population

year	*population*
2003	335
2002	354
2001	366
2000	377
1999	375
1998	397
1997	435
1996	401
1995	379
1994	409
1993	415

PEOPLE

In 2003, the population of Ross River was 335. This was the lowest it has been for at least ten years, after rising to 435 in 1997.

Age Distribution



The First Nation, the Ross River Dena Council, makes up just over 80 percent of the total population of the community. This compares with a 23-percent representation of First Nations people in the overall Yukon population.

There was relatively little movement into Ross River during the fiver years from 1996–2001. In 2001, almost 80 percent of those living in Ross River had lived there for at least the previous five years. Movement from outside of the Yukon into Ross River over this time period, at about 10 percent of residents, was lower than seen for the Yukon as a whole (16 percent).

Yukon government population counts show that Ross River has proportionately more children and older people living in the community than is the pattern across the Yukon. The youngest age group, those 14 years of age or younger, make up 26 percent of the population in Ross River. This compares to the 20-percent average for the Yukon. Just over 8 percent of the population is over 65 years of age, a little higher than the Yukon-wide proportion of 7 percent.

Young people aged 15 to 24 years of age make up almost 13 percent of the Ross River population, just a little lower than the 14-percent Yukon-wide average.

The working age population, those aged between 25 and 64 years, is proportionately far smaller in Ross River than for the Yukon overall. This reflects some movement of adults out of the community in search of employment.

About 48 percent of the people in Ross River are female, a smaller proportion than the 50-percent female representation in the total Yukon population.

FIRST NATIONS

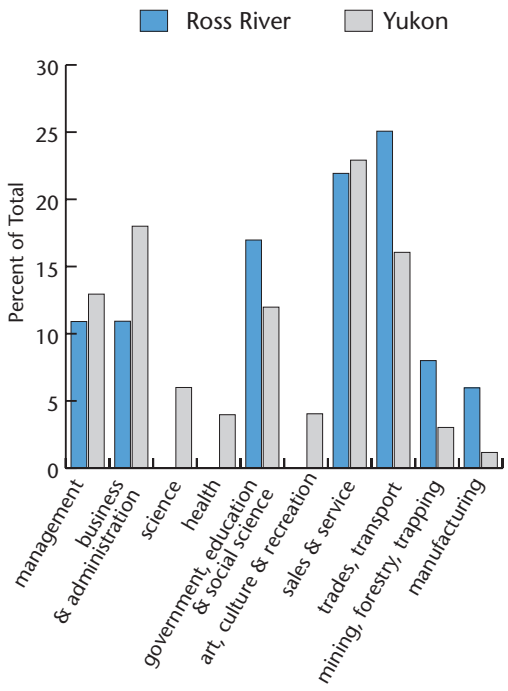
The people of the Ross River Dena Council are known as the Kaska and their language is part of the Athapaskan language family. The Ross River Dena Council is affiliated with the Kaska Tribal Council, which connects the people to their close Kaska relations in northern British Columbia and to the Liard First Nation. The Kaska of Ross River are also closely connected and related to their neighbours in Fort Norman, NWT, who make frequent visits to cultural events held at Coffee Lake, a traditional gathering area of the Kaska. Calculations generated by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 2004 for their internal purposes estimated the registered population of the Ross River Dena Council at 436. About 100 members live outside the community. First Nations' calculations of their population numbers may differ from Government of Canada figures and may include registered beneficiaries, non-beneficiary citizens and others.

Prior to contact with Europeans, the Kaska lived a semi-nomadic lifestyle, following game and harvesting resources from the land and water. They utilized all that the land provided, never wasting any parts of animals and devising innovative tool technology. Like many of the First Nations of the Yukon, the Kaska lived in dome structures with caribou hides as winter dwellings and brush camps for summer. The moiety structure of Wolf and Crow was established as their social system, and laws were embedded into the traditional justice and laws of the culture. Within the Kaska language there are many regional dialects; a Kaska Language Dictionary has been produced that documents them.

Today the Kaska people of the Ross River Dena Council are working toward settlement of their land claims and self-government agreements with the federal and territorial governments.

The Ross River Dena Council and its members have been working towards the healing of their people after the effects of mission schools, the loss of identity, and the upheaval of their culture due to massive change over the last 100 years, much like most of Yukon's First Nations people. The Ross River Dena people revived a unique style of drumming and singing; the Ross River Drummers now travel all over the Yukon to perform. Ross River was and remains an important site for stick gambling. Many First Nations from all areas of the Yukon travel there annually to participate.

Employment Share by Occupation



THE ECONOMY

Although the area is rich in minerals, Ross River's economy has not benefited much in terms of mining jobs. With the slump in mining activity in the Yukon over the past several years, mining is not seen as any support for the local economy.

Construction provided 11 percent of total employment in 2001, reflecting a strong investment picture at the start of the 2000s.

The government services sector includes Yukon territorial departments, federal, municipal, and First Nation administration. It provides the largest share of employment in Ross River, employing some 40 percent of all workers. First Nation administration and development provide a significant number of jobs to First Nations people. Territorial government services also provide some government administration jobs for Ross River residents. Education, at 11 percent of total employment, and health services, at 6 percent, employ a smaller but still sizeable proportion of workers.

Accommodation, food services, recreation and arts all provide jobs in the Ross River community. Some of these jobs are linked to the provision of services for mining exploration, but the major demand for services comes from local people, business visitors and tourism. Wilderness guiding provides some employment. Hunting, in particular, extends the typical summer tourist season into the fall. The popularity of the area among Yukon hunters increases the seasonal traffic substantially.

Other industry sectors, such as agriculture, logging, finance and other services, involve too few people to show measurable employment.

Some Ross River residents identify trapping as their main area of work. In addition, many people in Ross River practice subsistence economic activities, supplying themselves with much of their food through hunting and fishing.

WORK

For Ross River adults (those aged 15 years or older), 76 percent are active in the labour market, just below the 81-percent involvement in the labour market across the Yukon. Unemployment is significantly higher in Ross River than the average for the Yukon. In the 2001 Census, 37 percent of the workforce said they were unemployed. This is a little more than three times the 12-percent unemployment rate reported for the whole Territory. The Census reported that unemployment for men stood at 48 percent, while the women's unemployment rate was a little lower, but still close to 30 percent.

On average during 2003, 25 people claimed employment insurance in Ross River. The number of people claiming employment insurance has varied from just under 20 to over 30 in the past decade.

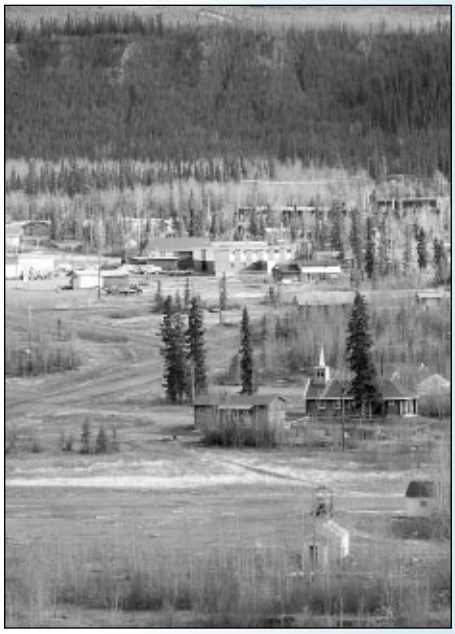
In Ross River, young people aged 15 to 24 are less likely to be working or looking for work than are youth in the Yukon as a whole. About 63

percent of Ross River youth said they were in the formal labour market, compared to 68 percent Yukon-wide. Even when young adults were involved in the labour market in 2001, they had little chance of finding employment. The Ross River youth unemployment rate in 2001 stood at 60 percent, compared to the youth unemployment rate of about 20 percent across the Yukon.

People are somewhat less likely to work full-time, full year in Ross River than in the Yukon overall. Almost 32 percent of work was reported as full-time, full year, compared to 46 percent Yukon-wide.

Self-employment is somewhat lower than average in Ross River. It accounted for just under 9 percent of total work activity, compared to 13 percent across the Yukon.

Average employment income in Ross River as reported in the 2001 Census was almost $20,000 compared to $31,500 for the Yukon. For those with full-time, full year work, average earnings were almost $33,000, still below the $44,600 earned Yukon-wide. The main fields of work in Ross River are sales and service occupations as well as teaching and social services. Management, business, and administration fields provide a smaller share of employment than they do on average across the Yukon.



Employment in construction and other trades continued to be important work areas for Ross River in 2001 with several construction projects under way. The proportion of the workforce in the primary and processing occupations is lower at this time, however, with the closure of the Faro mine. The amount of mining exploration has also continued to drop drastically into 2004, limiting jobs in these fields. When the mines are in operation or exploration activity is taking place there can be a surge of employment opportunities for construction and other trades and for transportation workers. Another occupation found in Ross River is trapping.

EDUCATION

The 2001 Census showed that almost 45 percent of Ross River people over 20 years of age had taken some non-university post-secondary or college education or training. A further 11 percent reported they had some university education, with 6 percent having completed university degrees. Just over 30 percent listed secondary school (grades 9 and above) as their highest level of education, and 17 percent responded that their highest level of education was Grade 9 and under.

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Mining continues to hold some long-term potential for economic development in the Ross River/Faro region. Faro lies at the northwest end of a strongly mineralised area that curves southeast towards

Watson Lake. It passes through deposits bearing some of the famous names in Yukon base-metal mining. The Finlayson Lake district in southeastern Yukon is seen as having potential, and several companies are carrying out exploration work there. Ross River will likely benefit if current interest is justified. The Liard First Nation's agreement with the Kudz ze Kayah mine on hiring First Nations people should also have some impact in the Ross River area, if that mine starts up. Mining exploration, an indicator of future mining activity, has been significantly reduced over the past few years. At this time, there is no sign of the situation turning around. The Ross River Dena Council owns and operates a general store in the community and has signed agreements with mining companies related to development. Since there is a great need for long-term jobs in Ross River, the council is looking for other economic development opportunities.

Tourism is also a means of diversifying the local economy and providing employment for local people. While Ross River is off the beaten path of overseas tourists, there are opportunities to develop more tourism based on hunting, fishing, and adventure activities.

There are emerging occupations in Ross River in local administration and community development, which require financial, administrative, and planning skills. Tourism development will emphasize small business operations in fields like outfitting and guiding as well as accommodation and food services.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Education from kindergarten to Grade 10 is available at Ross River School. Students can complete Grade 12 in Watson Lake, Faro, or Whitehorse.

Post-secondary education is provided through the Ross River Community Campus of Yukon College. Ross River Elders named the campus Dena Cho Kanadi or "big people learning" in 1996. The College Campus offers academic upgrading, youth employment training programs, introduction to trades courses, business and office administration, and traditional cultural skills. A fully-equipped computer lab is connected to the internet and offers distance education opportunities.

Health care is provided through the community health centre, daily from Monday to Friday. A treatment clinic is held in the morning, and community health programs in the afternoons. The health centre also provides 24-hour emergency service.

The Ross River Dena Council offers social services to its members, including counseling, social assistance, adult care, and recreation services. The First Nation also has a Community Education Liaison Coordinator and provides native courtworker services.

Health and Social Services provides a resident social worker in Ross River.

The RCMP detachment is three strong, one corporal and two constables, one of whom must be a First Nations person. Justice of the Peace, native courtworkers, and probation officer services are provided locally.

The Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd. supplies hydroelectric power from the Whitehorse dam, backed up by three diesel-generating units. Water is trucked three times a week from a filtration well to all houses, and sanitation is by septic tanks, subsurface tile fields and outhouses.

Fire service is provided by a volunteer force, with pumper, hoses, and breathing equipment. There is also a volunteer ambulance crew and a volunteer search-and-rescue group. Other volunteer groups active in Ross River include a Youth Justice Committee, school and campus councils, and an inter-agency resource team.

Mail is trucked in and out of Ross River postal outlet three times a week. Local dial-up Internet access is available in the community.

Banking facilities are available for three and a half hours a day, four days a week. They are located at the Ross River Dena Council Office

There is a community library at Ross River.

St. Michael's Roman Catholic church is located in the community.

The Campbell Highway, the main road connection for Ross River, is an unpaved, all-weather road that runs from Carmacks to Watson Lake. From Ross River, the trip to Whitehorse is 477 km or about a five-hour drive. Watson Lake is 373 km away from Ross River in the opposite direction. Ross River is also accessible seasonally by way of the South Canol Road, which joins the Alaska Highway at Johnson's Crossing.

There are two retail outlets in Ross River. The Ross River Service Centre carries groceries, hardware, fishing and hunting supplies. The Ross River Dena Store carries groceries.

A variety of small businesses provide services ranging from construction to accounting to outfitting for hunters. In addition, business services for mining exploration include line-cutting and equipment rental.

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

Internet access is available at the Community Campus of Yukon College or the public library.

There is no cell phone coverage in the Ross River area.

Although all businesses and government agencies have photocopiers and fax machines, there is no public facility for these services.

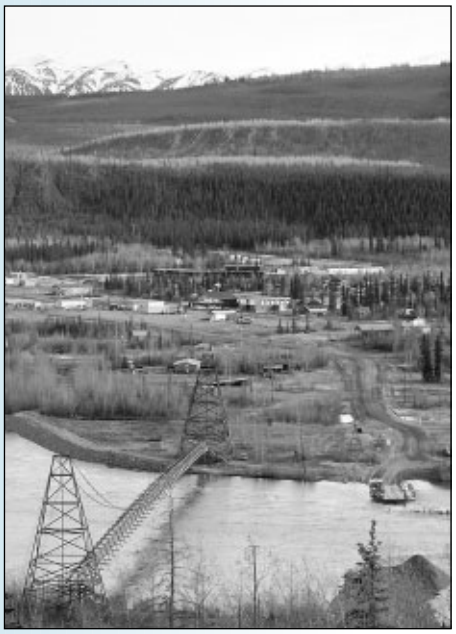
Year-round accommodation is available at the Welcome Inn. Its services include a restaurant, bar, laundromat, showers, gas and diesel, tire repairs, small equipment rental, and aviation fuel.

The Leprechaun Hideaway B & B and Restaurant operates a restaurant and cabin rental in summer months. Jackfish Lake Bed & Breakfast also operates during the summer.

COST OF LIVING

A separate cost of living survey is not available for Ross River. Faro, the nearest community, shows prices that, in general, are about 8 percent above those in Whitehorse. It is very likely, therefore, that it will cost at least 8 percent more to purchase goods in Ross River than in Whitehorse.

The 2001 Census reported 130 occupied private dwellings in Ross River. In 2004 the Ross River Dena Council reported that it administered 114 buildings, approximately 101 of which were residential units. For owner-occupied housing, with two to three bedrooms, Census information shows an average value of $89,000 in Ross River in 2001. That same year, rented accommodation cost an average of $570 a month.



LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

Ross River is rich in Kaska culture and tradition. The community holds an annual Culture Exchange, a week-long celebration that attracts people from across Canada and Alaska. Many come to perform; others to observe. The tradition of knowledge, culture, and art is shared with everyone who attends.

Ross River is situated in the centre of a vast and beautiful area. For those who love the outdoors, this is the place to visit. Everything is at their back door: snowmobiling, skiing, snowboarding, rock climbing, fishing, hunting, hiking, or enjoying the wildlife. It is a wonderful place to come closer to nature.

There are many historical sites, and people in the area who are authorities on local history. An annual gathering of the Kaska people and their cultural practices is held at Coffee Lake. Ross River is rich in traditional knowledge, and this knowledge is shared and passed from generation to generation. The community has a long history of both First Nations people and non-First Nations people working collaboratively on projects of mutual interest and benefit.

Life in small communities provides tranquility and privacy that is often impossible to achieve in larger centres. The relaxed atmosphere of the community and people who live here make it a welcoming place to visit or to live.

CLIMATE

Environment Canada's information on the climate in Ross River notes that the average temperature in July is 13.6 degrees Celsius, with daily maximums averaging 20.9 degrees C. The January average temperature in Ross River is minus 27.2 degrees C, with daily highs reaching minus 21.8 degrees C. Average annual rainfall in Ross River is 161.3 millimetres. Average annual snowfall is 98 centimetres, with a range between 146 and 67 cm over 15 years of records.

MORE INFORMATION

Details about the Ross River Dena Council First Nation can be found in a book, *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*, published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1998. Information is also available on-line at http://sdiprod2.inac.gc.ca/FNProfiles/

For further information about the First Nation, go to http://www.yfnta.org/

For information about the Ross River Community Campus of Yukon College, go to http://yukoncollege.yk.ca/campuses/

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/

For information on occupations in the Yukon, working conditions, and the Yukon economy, see *Yukon WorkFutures* at http://www.workfutures.yk.ca

For information about the local environment, see the *Yukon State of the Environment Report* at http://www.taiga.net/yukonsoe/

For general information about the Yukon, see Yukon Fact Sheets at http://www.gov.yk.ca/facts/

The Strategis Business Map has some community information, links to Statistics Canada community information and a map system: http://commercecan.ic.gc.ca/scdt/bizmap/interface2.nsf/engdocBasic/O.html

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics has annual economic and statistical reviews at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/stats/index.html

For current job listings throughout the Yukon, check the Yukon office of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml

The Community of Teslin

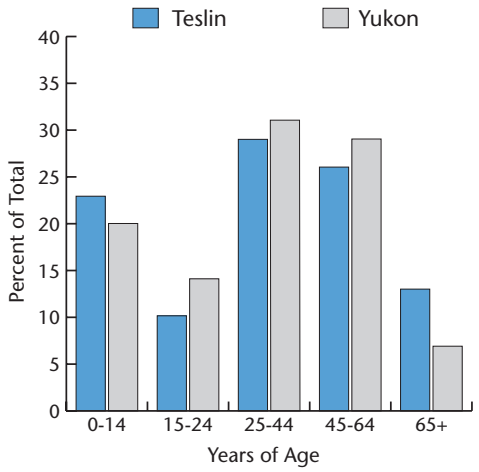
Teslin is located on Teslin Lake at the mouth of the Nisutlin River. The recreational potential of the area and spectacular views of the big lake from the Alaska Highway hold considerable appeal for tourists. Teslin is, in fact, an active tourism centre with significant numbers of people stopping over during the summer months. The community lies 183 kilometres east of Whitehorse on the Alaska Highway. Watson Lake is about 260 km farther east.

The First Nation people of the Teslin area are the Inland Tlingit, or the Dakh-ka Tlingit. The Tlingit people have traveled through this area for centuries. Famous as traders, the Tlingit came from Alaska in search of furs for trading, and some settled in the Teslin area. Teslin Lake was an important fishing area for First Nations. During the Klondike Gold Rush, it was one of the waterways used to reach the Yukon River. A small trading post was established in 1903, mainly to serve the Tlingit people living in the area. After the Alaska Highway was completed in 1942, Teslin became a permanent settlement.

Total Population

year	*population*
2003	401
2002	423
2001	440
2000	446
1999	450
1998	454
1997	487
1996	490
1995	466
1994	469
1993	466

Age Distribution



PEOPLE

The population of Teslin averaged 401 in 2003, the lowest it has been for several years.

First Nation people belonging to the Teslin Tlingit Council make up about two-thirds of the total population of the community. This compares with a 23-percent representation of First Nations people in the overall Yukon population.

Teslin is a mix of people who have lived in the area for many years and some who moved in or returned to the community during the late 1990s. In 2001, a little under 70 percent of the population had lived in Teslin for at least the previous five years. This is slightly lower than the proportion for the Yukon as a whole. Movement from outside of the Yukon into Teslin, at about 23 percent, was higher than the Yukon-wide rate of 16 percent.

Teslin's age structure reflects some movement of adults out of the area to look for work elsewhere. There are slightly more children in the community than the Yukon average: 23 percent of people are aged 14 or under, compared to 20 percent for the Yukon as a whole. The working-age groups, 25 to 44 years and 45 to 64 years, are proportionately a little smaller than the Yukon average. People aged 65 and over make up nearly 13 percent of the Teslin population, quite a bit higher than the nearly 7 percent found on average in the Yukon.

About 44 percent of people in Teslin are female, a smaller proportion than the 50-percent female representation in the total Yukon population.

FIRST NATIONS

The First Nations people of Teslin are Inland Tlingit-speaking people. They trace their ancestry to Tlingit people who migrated inland through the Taku River from Alaskan coastal areas during the last centuries. Many Teslin people trace their lineage to the Juneau/Auk Bay area. These coastal people quickly adopted an interior lifestyle, travelling a seasonal round, following the movements of fish and game, and harvesting plants and berries. They continued to travel to the coast to trade fur harvests, often on behalf of their families inland. Although they adopted an interior lifestyle, the Inland Tlingit people also retained their clan and potlatch systems. The Teslin people speak an entirely different language from the remainder of the Yukon First Nations, whose languages are of the Athapaskan family. The Teslin Tlingit Council is a member of the Tlingit Tribal Council, the Dakh-ka Nation, consisting of the Taku River Tlingits and the Carcross/Tagish First Nation.

The Teslin people are thought to have begun arriving in the area some 200 to 300 years ago. Although they first entered the Yukon as traders who headquartered on the coast, the Tlingit people eventually began to intermarry and settle in the area on a more permanent basis in the mid-19th century. They brought with them their language, clan systems and cultural practices. Many of the surrounding Athapaskan-speaking groups today reflect these cultural influences.

The Teslin Tlingit people are closely related to the Inland Tlingit people of Atlin in northern British Columbia and Carcross. The three communities are connected through a system of trails that were used extensively until the 1940s when the Alaska Highway was built.

The Teslin village site has been a summer stopping place since early times. People would gather there for summer "holidays" and socializing, usually at the end of the trapping season in June. The Inland Tlingit people of Teslin began settling year-round in the community in the 1940s when the Alaska Highway was built. In 2004, the Teslin Tlingit Council reported approximately 700 registered members; about 470 of them live outside the community.

The Teslin Tlingit Council was an active participant in the land claims negotiating process from 1973 to 1993. Along with three other First Nations, the TTC signed their land claims and self-government agreements in 1993. The agreements came into effect in 1995. Today, the TTC follows the traditional clan system of governance. A spokesperson is appointed from each of the five clans to form the "council" and a Chief is appointed by the elders. The clan system has been incorporated into the TTC and is an important aspect of the Self-Government Agreement. In 2001, the First Nation celebrated the opening of the Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre, which is the focus for cultural education, heritage, tourism and marketing. The Centre is

mandated with the management and promotion of these activities, and is a venue for community events and celebrations. The potlatch remains an integral component in the lifestyle of the Teslin people, as do traditional values and belief systems. Elders are held in high esteem and remain fundamental in the governance system.

THE ECONOMY

Although the economy of Teslin relies heavily on traditional and subsistence activities, tourism has become an important aspect of the economy. It provides work and income for many people during the summer season, when the community becomes a busy centre. Other activities include government services.

The government services sector provides the largest share of employment in Teslin, occupying over one third of all workers. The Teslin Tlingit Council is the largest single employer. First Nation administration, services, and development provide a significant number of jobs to First Nations people. Yukon land claims work has added to government services sector employment. The territorial government, which has highway, forestry, and social services in this area, also provides some jobs. Health care employs almost another 15 percent of workers.

Over the longer term, tourism has been growing considerably in this part of the Yukon, although in common with many other areas — and countries — tourism has been lower over the past two years. In general the industry provides many seasonal jobs in and around Teslin. Tourism activity in Teslin includes accommodation, food services, transportation services, cultural activities, and outfitting and guiding services. Teslin Lake, which is 138 km long and extends across the British Columbia border, is famous for its fishing. Nisutlin Bay is known for northern pike. The Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area is known for its bird and wildlife habitat. Tle-nax Tawei Inc., the economic development arm of the Teslin Tlingit Council, has been actively involved in promoting tourism, outfitting and a sawmill.

Teslin residents also practise subsistence economic activities, supplying themselves with much of their food through hunting and fishing. The TTC is responsible for joint management of the Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area.

WORK

The proportion of adults in the Teslin population is somewhat smaller than the adult share of the larger Yukon population. This is an indication that many adults move away from Teslin to look for work. About 70 percent of community residents aged 15 years and up are involved in the labour market, less than the 81-percent involvement across the Yukon. Unemployment is higher in Teslin than the average for the Yukon. This is especially the case for workers who are 25 years of age or older. The 2001 Census reported that for this age group, 22 percent of people in the workforce were unemployed, more than twice the

unemployment rate reported for the whole Territory. A third of adult men (25 years of age or older) in the Teslin labour force were unemployed.

On average during 2003, 44 people claimed employment insurance in Teslin. The number of people claiming employment insurance has varied between 30 and 49 over the period from 1991 to the early 2000s. The relatively high number of employment insurance claimants in Teslin is a further indication that much of the available work lasts only part of the year.

The 2001 Census showed that Teslin's young people (aged 15 to 24) are quite involved in the labour market. About 70 percent of Teslin youth said they were in the formal labour market, compared to 68 percent Yukon-wide. There is no official measure of unemployment from the Census for this group, but job possibilities for young workers are limited in Teslin.

Although the Census did not provide any measure of full-time, full year work for Teslin, other information indicates that much of the work available in the community, apart from government employment, is seasonal.

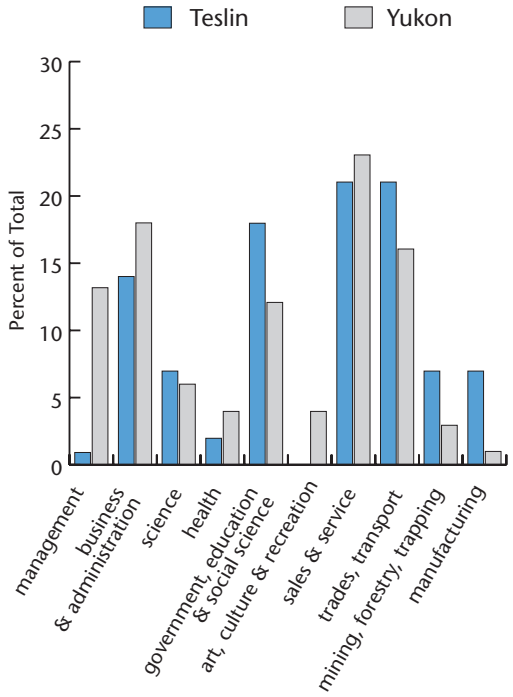
Information on self-employment, drawn from the Census, shows a relatively low rate of 7 percent. The Yukon-wide rate is 13 percent.

Earnings information was not available from the 2001 Census.

The main fields of work in Teslin's formal labour market are sales and service occupations linked to tourism. These include food and accommodation service jobs as well as such occupations as outfitters and guides.

Employment in the First Nation government means that there are workers employed in administration fields. The overall management, business and administration fields provide a smaller share of employment than they do on average across the Yukon, however. Other occupations represented in Teslin include teachers, nurses, social workers, and community workers in government, education, social services, and health occupation fields. In 2001, other workers in Teslin were employed in trades and transportation occupations, which includes such fields as auto repair, maintenance, and construction.

Employment Share by Occupation



EDUCATION

According to the 2001 Census, about 55 percent of Teslin people aged 20 and over reported having taken some non-university post-secondary or college education or training. A further 11 percent reported they had some university education; 5 percent had completed university degrees. About 18 percent listed secondary school (grades 9 and above) as

their highest level of education, and 15 percent responded that their highest level of education was under Grade 9.

In 1996, about 60 percent of young people aged 15 to 24 years reported that they were attending school. This is close to the pattern for the Yukon as a whole.

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Tourism provides the most potential for economic growth in Teslin. The community could expand existing tourism activities by providing more services locally.

Otherwise the Teslin area offers limited employment, and there is a considerable need to develop long-term opportunities, particularly for First Nations people. The Teslin Tlingit Council plans to assist small businesses in order to increase employment. The TTC sees particular potential in tourism and has already ventured into the field. The First Nation owns and operates the largest local outfitting business. Cultural activities and arts and crafts production already exist in Teslin. They could be developed further, expanding the amount and range of products for sale. Increased markets would encourage people to base their work in Teslin.

The Marlin open-pit rhodonite mine is a small producer in the Teslin area. Rhodonite is a pink semi-precious mineral used for jewelry and small carvings. Additional tourism in the Teslin area would create more employment opportunities in accommodation and food services. Further tourism activities could be developed through using local knowledge, especially in areas such as fishing locations and bird habitat. More visitors might also be attracted by arts and cultural and traditional activities and displays. Local people will need skills that allow them to start up and run small businesses. Communication skills are also very important for most tourism, especially anything that builds on cultural and traditional areas.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Education from kindergarten to Grade 9 is available at Teslin School. Students go to Whitehorse to complete Grade 12.

Post-secondary education is provided through the Teslin Campus of Yukon College, located in the Teslin Tlingit Council administration building. The campus offers a full academic upgrading program, a variety of short courses and workshops, and specialized programs developed to meet local training requirements such as employment readiness and career development. Other programs may include office management and introductory trades. The campus has videoconferencing capacity and additional courses offered by the college are available to the community.

The community health centre offers daily service and is staffed by two resident nurses; a physician visits monthly. The health centre also provides 24-hour emergency service.

The Yukon government's Department of Health and Social Services provides a social worker. Yukon Family Services Association provides itinerant services from Whitehorse.

The Teslin Tlingit Council offers social services to its members through a Social Programs team. There is a social administrator, traditional counsellors, community health representative, Community Education Liaison Coordinator, and youth worker. Services include temporary financial assistance, in-home care, counseling, and referral. Native courtworker services are provided out of Watson Lake, and the TTC First Nation provides peacemaker courts. Services such as meals-on-wheels and elder care are provided to both TTC and non-Tlingit elders. Pre- and post-natal services, daycare language programs, and traditional parenting workshops are also provided.

Teslin was one of many Canadian communities chosen to participate in two comprehensive nationwide studies: the National Community Planning Project; and Understanding Strengths of Indian Communities in Canada. Results of these studies may be seen on web sites listed at the end of this chapter.

Policing is provided by the RCMP detachment, which is staffed by one corporal, one constable, and one First Nations special constable. Probation officer services are provided out of Whitehorse.

The fire department is run by a chief and 12 volunteer firefighters.

The Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd. supplies hydroelectric power from the Whitehorse dam, with diesel generator back-up.

Water supply is from a well at the townsite or from individual wells piped to houses. Sewage service for most housing is provided through a piped sewer system.

Recreation facilities include an arena, playgrounds, a new baseball diamond, community club, curling rink, and a community library. Other facilities operated by the Teslin Tlingit Council include a Long House (cultural centre), healing centre, Heritage Centre, learning centre, and drop-in centre.

Teslin Price Survey

October 2003	*Whitehorse = 100*
Total Survey Items	110.7
Meat	92.6
Dairy/Eggs	107.5
Fruit/Veg.	106.9
Bread/Cereal	110.7
Other Foods	110.1
Household Operations	101.9
Health & Personal Care	187.1
Gasoline	104.1
Cigarettes	104.3

Mail is trucked in and out of Teslin four times a week. Local high-speed Internet access is available in the community.

The community has banking services.

Teslin is on the Alaska Highway, which is paved and maintained for all-weather use. It is 183 km from Whitehorse, a driving time of two hours. A 5,500-foot (1700-metre) gravel runway is maintained year-round, and there is float plane access from Teslin Lake.

As a tourism centre, Teslin offers many facilities for travelers and tourists. The George Johnston Museum and the Tlingit Heritage Centre, which have collections of First Nations artifacts and gold rush relics on display, are open in the summer. The area has motels and lodges, an assortment of food services, a general store, campgrounds and RV parks, and various highway services providing repairs, gasoline and propane.

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

Access to fax, photocopying, Internet, and email facilities is available at the public library and the TTC administration offices. Accommodation and food services are available year-round. A private local firm also provides internet services.

COST OF LIVING

Teslin is close to Whitehorse and on the Alaska Highway, the main supply route for the Yukon. These factors help keep prices relatively low. Although prices for some things are higher, on average, than in Whitehorse, other prices are lower. Overall, it costs about 2 percent more to live in Teslin than to live in Whitehorse.

The 2001 Census reported 110 occupied private dwellings in Teslin. The Census indicated that the average value of houses in Teslin was $110,000. In 2004 the Teslin Tlingit Council reported that it managed a total of 33 units on and off settlement land. Rented houses within the settlement of Teslin cost an average of $560 a month in 2001. Summer rentals of lodges and houses on Teslin Lake are often advertised at much higher rates, depending on the quality of the facility.

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

Teslin is rich in Tlingit culture and tradition. The Tlingit language is making a comeback, fostered in the community and taught in the school.

Teslin is located on the shores of Teslin Lake, which comprises a major part of the Yukon River drainage system. An abundance of lakes, rivers, and streams makes Teslin a fishing paradise and wildlife abounds in the area. Canoeing, kayaking, and power boating are popular summer activities. Winter brings out the snowmobilers and cross-country ski enthusiasts.

CLIMATE

Proximity to the Pacific coast has a moderating effect on Teslin compared with the rest of the Yukon. Weather information over the past three decades shows that January temperatures in Teslin typically reach a maximum of minus 14.6 degrees Celsius in the daytime, dropping to minus 24 C at night. In July, daytime temperatures reach a maximum of 20.2 degrees C with overnight temperatures at 7.5 C. Total precipitation in any year is about 340 millimetres, with about 200 mm as rain and almost 150 cm as snow.

MORE INFORMATION

Details about the Teslin Tlingit Council can be found in a book, *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*, published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1998. Information is also available on-line at http://sdiprod2.inac.gc.ca/FNProfiles/

For further information about the First Nation, go to http://www.yfnta.org/

The municipal government can be contacted at Village of Teslin, Box 32, Teslin YT, Y0A 1B0, Phone: (867) 390-2530, Fax: (867) 390-2104.

For information about the Teslin Community Campus of Yukon College, go to http://yukoncollege.yk.ca/campuses/

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/

Teslin School has a website with information about the community and the Teslin Tlingit culture:
http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/teslin/index.html

For information on occupations in the Yukon, working conditions, and the Yukon economy, see *Yukon WorkFutures* at http://www.workfutures.yk.ca

For information about the local environment, see the *Yukon State of the Environment Report* at http://www.taiga.net/yukonsoe/

For general information about the Yukon, see Yukon Fact Sheets at http://www.gov.yk.ca/facts/

The Strategis Business Map has some community information, links to Statistics Canada community information and a map system: http://commercecan.ic.gc.ca/scdt/bizmap/interface2.nsf/engdocBasic/O.html

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics has annual economic and statistical reviews at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/stats/index.html

For current job listings throughout the Yukon, check the Yukon office of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml

For information about the National Comprehensive Community Planning Project, go to:
http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/rps/inac/content/docs_governance_comm_part2-e.html

For information about the Understanding Strengths of Indigenous Communities in Canada project, go to
http://www.turning-point.ca/index.php/article/view/290/1/17

The Community of Watson Lake

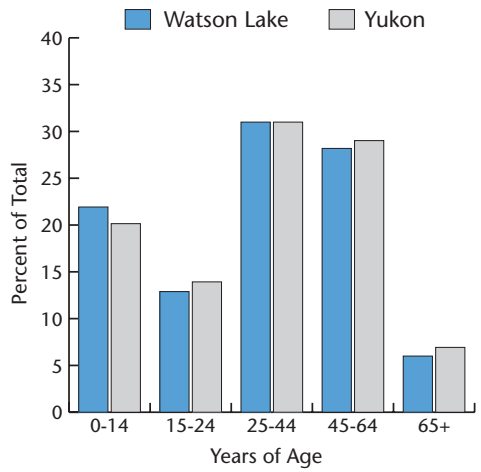
Watson Lake is often called "The Gateway to the Yukon." The community is located in the southeastern corner of the Territory, just 14 km from where the Alaska Highway crosses the British Columbia border. Watson Lake is a key transportation hub. It sits at the junction of the Alaska Highway, the Robert Campbell Highway to the central Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and the Stewart-Cassiar Highway from central British Columbia. The Yukon's capital, Whitehorse, is 455 kilometres to the northwest.

The community of Watson Lake consists of the town of Watson Lake and the adjoining settlements of the Liard First Nation, including Upper Liard. Watson Lake lies within the traditional territory of the Liard First Nation, part of the Kaska Tribal Council. A community was established at Watson Lake in 1939, when the Canadian government decided to build a chain of airports across the North, including one at Watson Lake. The new community was a supply and accommodation centre for airport construction in 1941 and for the building of the Alaska Highway a year later. After these were completed, Watson Lake became a service centre for the highway and, later, for the resource-rich region of the upper Liard River and its tributaries.

Total Population

year	*population*
2003	1,545
2002	1,570
2001	1,617
2000	1,657
1999	1,615
1998	1,690
1997	1,796
1996	1,801
1995	1,775
1994	1,729
1993	1,827

Age Distribution



PEOPLE

The population of the Watson Lake community averaged 1,545 people in 2003, the lowest it has been in ten years. The population of the Watson Lake area has fluctuated over the past decade, from a high of just over 1,800 in 1993 to the current low point. The Liard First Nation is an important segment of the population in the Watson Lake community. The 2001 Census shows just over 36 percent of the community's people identified themselves as First Nations people. This compares with 23 percent for the Yukon overall.

Watson Lake has had a slightly higher-than-average population movement from outside the Yukon. People who had moved from outside of the Yukon in the five years preceding the 2001 Census made up 18 percent of the Watson Lake population. The average for the Yukon as a whole was almost 16 percent. Most arrived from other provinces, with only a small number moving from outside Canada.

Information from the end of 2003 shows that the age structure of the Watson Lake population is very similar to that of the Yukon as a whole.

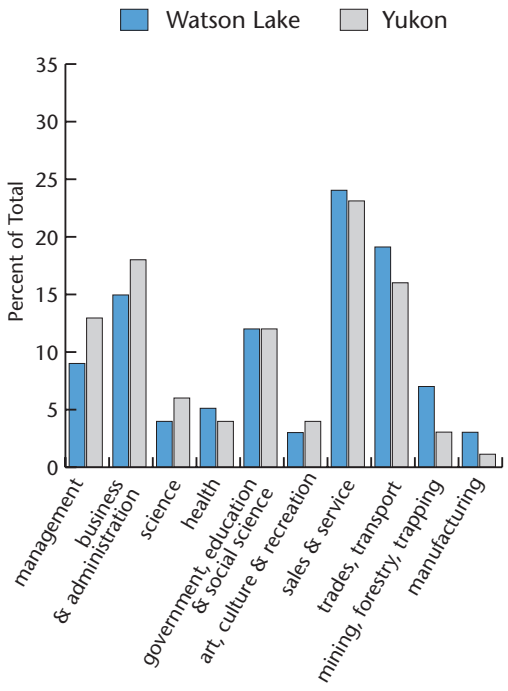
Children aged 14 and under make up 22 percent of the total population compared to the Yukon-wide share of 20 percent. People over 65 are a further 6 percent, slightly below the Yukon proportion of 7 percent. Young people aged 15 to 24 are 14 percent of the total Watson Lake population, the same as in the Yukon as a whole. Working-age adults, from 25 to 64 years, make up 60 percent of the population, also the same proportion found in the overall Yukon population.

About 48 percent of the Watson Lake population is female, below the overall Yukon average of 50 percent.

FIRST NATIONS

The Kaska language of the Liard First Nation is one of the Athapaskan languages. The Kaska people are closely related to the Kaska Dena of Ross River. As with other Yukon First Nations groups, the Kaska traditionally hunted and gathered on the land for their livelihood. They traveled in extended family groups throughout their traditional territory, hunting, fishing, and gathering vegetation as the seasons permitted. The Kaska were organized into a Wolf and Crow moiety system and observed the potlatch for ceremonial occasions.

Employment Share by Occupation



Calculations generated by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 2004 for their internal purposes estimated the registered population of the Liard First Nation, which is part of the Kaska Tribal Council, at 1009. First Nations' calculations of their population numbers may differ from Government of Canada figures and may include registered beneficiaries, non-beneficiary citizens and others. A little less than half of the First Nation membership is reported as living on First Nation land, either reserves or crown land. Many members live in the town of Watson Lake, while others live elsewhere in the Yukon or outside the Territory.

Kaska First Nations people first began experiencing contact with white fur traders as early as the 1820s and 30s. Kaska territory was also part of the route to the Klondike goldfields in 1897-98. The First Nations people of the area were the subjects of conversion to the Roman Catholic church as missionaries entered the area in the 1920s. With the building of the Alaska Highway in 1942, Watson Lake and Upper Liard became more permanent residences for the Kaska people.

The Kaska people are actively involved in cultural revival, teaching the children their history, language, and traditional practices. The First Nation supports heritage development, language classes, and elder involvement in healing programs and land-based activities. A Kaska language dictionary has been published.

The Kaska people of the Liard First Nation are working toward settlement of their land claims and self-government agreements with the federal and territorial governments. Currently not a member of the Council of Yukon First Nations, the LFN is considering rejoining the Council, and

has also been involved in establishing unity with other Kaska groups in the region.

THE ECONOMY

Watson Lake is the regional service and business centre for the southeastern Yukon, and has a diversified economy. Primary industries provide some support for the local economy. This includes some forestry, and energy exploration provides economic activity. Business travel and commercial transportation, linked to resource exploration and to Watson Lake's role as a transportation hub, are also important. Tourism, despite slower activity since September 11, 2001, has been increasing in importance to Watson Lake.

The government services sector is a major source of employment, providing 17 percent of employment. The trade sector and the accommodation and food services sector provide employment for about 15 percent of the work force, significantly higher than the Yukon-wide share of 9.0 percent. Construction provides a further 9 percent of total employment, a little above the Yukon average. Construction employment varies from year to year, depending on the number and type of projects.

Since Watson Lake provides community services to the surrounding area, the share of employment in health and education services is fairly close to the overall Yukon pattern.

WORK

Census results showed that 80 percent of the Watson Lake population over the age of 15 were in the labour force in 2001. This is the same as the overall Yukon rate.

Unemployment for the town of Watson Lake was about 13 percent in 1996, close to the Yukon average. The First Nation settlements showed significantly higher unemployment rates: about 30 percent or more.

Records for employment insurance showed an average of 104 people claiming payments in 2003, up a little from the year before.

For young adults (15 to 24 years of age), 60 percent are active in the labour market. This is somewhat lower than the overall Yukon participation rate of 68 percent for this age group. About 17 percent of young people reported being unemployed in 2001, just below the Yukon rate.

The share of full-time, full year work in Watson Lake was virtually the same as for the Yukon as a whole, 45 and 46 percent respectively.

The average employment income for all workers in Watson Lake, as reported in the 2001 Census, was close to $26,600, compared to the Yukon average of just over $31,500. For those working on a full-time, full year basis, average earnings in Watson Lake were just over $34,200 (compared to average Yukon full-time, full year earnings of about $44,600). Income information for the local Liard First Nation settlements was not reported in the Census.

About 10 percent of those who work in the Watson Lake area reported that their main work is through self-employment. This is a little lower than the 13-percent share for the Yukon.

The largest occupational fields in Watson Lake are sales and service occupations, construction and other trades, transport, and equipment operation. They provide a somewhat larger share of employment in the Watson Lake area than they do in the Territory as a whole. Other significant employment fields are business and administration and management occupations, although such employment is a little lower than the Yukon-wide proportion.

Occupations linked with primary industries provide almost 7 percent of employment, higher than the 3 percent average across the Yukon.

Since Watson Lake is a service community for the southeastern Yukon, there is a relatively high proportion of work in social service, government, education, and health care occupations.

EDUCATION

In the 2001 Census, almost 50 percent of Watson Lake area people over 20 years of age reported having taken some non-university post-secondary education or training. A further 15 percent reported they had some university education; 8 percent had completed university degrees. Another 31 percent said secondary school (grades 9 and above) was their highest level of education, and just 4 percent said their highest level of education was less than Grade 9.

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Watson Lake area has potential for economic gains from further forestry development and, possibly, the specialized manufacturing of wood products. Increased employment in this area hinges on completion of the Timber Harvesting Agreement. In May 2004 the Yukon government released the first blocks of timber for harvesting near Watson Lake. Oil and gas exploration has started to increase in the southeastern Yukon; this will provide some additional employment, either directly or indirectly through services to exploration crews.

Tourism shows considerable growth potential for the Yukon. Tourism is mostly a summer industry, but efforts are underway to increase the number of winter tourists coming to Watson Lake. The main target for winter tourism has been groups from Southeast Asia.

There has been some mining activity on a small scale. Exploration of the southeastern Yukon has increased recently. The discovery of gemstones (emeralds and blue beryl) in the region has added excitement. Several companies continue exploration work for volcanogenic massive sulphide deposits of copper, silver, gold, lead and zinc in the Finlayson Lake District. Exploration work continues at the Kudz ze Kayah property near Ross River but no production decision has been made. Gold exploration has increased in the Hyland River area.

Forestry, mining, and other resource sectors are increasingly working toward environmentally sustainable operations. There will be a growing need for both technical skills and sound management practice in resource industries. Tourism and ecotourism activities also need these skills. In addition, workers in all of these sectors require good communication skills.

Watson Lake is involved in an Internet project to increase its bandwidth.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Education from elementary to post-secondary is available in Watson Lake. Johnson Elementary School has a capacity of 300, and Watson Lake Secondary School has a capacity of 250. Like all Yukon schools, the core curriculum (80%) follows the British Columbia Ministry of Education curriculum, and students are eligible to write B.C. departmental exams.

Yukon College has a campus in a separate wing of the secondary school. The Campus provides the community with courses in academic upgrading, computer skills and first aid. It is a resource for information on student financial aid, and other colleges and universities. It also provides job-related training in the areas of entry-level trades, office administration, accounting, and early childhood education. It has a computer lab with approximately 20 computers and dedicated Internet access. The campus is used as a meeting place for many groups and organizations and is equipped with video-conferencing capabilities.

Health care is provided through the Parhelion Medical Clinic and the Watson Lake Hospital. The clinic is staffed with three full-time physicians and boasts a pharmacy to serve residents. The hospital has a full-time Nurse in Charge and seven nurses. Public Health services are run out of the hospital: two full-time nurses provide service to Watson Lake, Upper Liard, and Lower Post. The hospital is also responsible for the homecare nurse, who works closely with the local seniors group.

The community has a registered massage therapist. Optometry services are provided on a regular basis from Whitehorse.

Watson Lake has a visiting dentist from Whitehorse who operates out of an office located in the community's strip mall.

Local trained volunteers provide ambulance service, while the RCMP provides policing for the community from the detachment. It is staffed with nine members and is responsible for Watson Lake, Lower Post, Upper Liard, and the surrounding area.

A full-time fire chief and a large group of volunteer members provide fire department services.

Yukon Electrical Company provides the community with electricity generated from a diesel generating plant located on the Campbell Highway. A project to utilize the waste heat to heat the secondary school, swimming pool and new recreation complex was completed in 2000. Plans to extend this project to include local businesses are being explored.

Other community social services include two full-time social workers, a probation officer, a full-time resident counsellor from Yukon Family Services, and a shelter for women and children. A part-time Housing Association person is responsible for Yukon Housing. Native courtworker services are provided through the Liard First Nation.

Watson Lake Outreach is a community-based employment resource centre. Its mandate is to increase overall employability and eventual employment by offering employment-related services. The focus is on non-job-ready clients. It attempts to direct job-ready clients towards Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Territorial Agent services are provided through the Yukon Liquor Corporation facilities in Watson Lake. These services include providing information and forms, accepting various applications, and issuing licences and permits.

The community has an excellent resource in the form of the Healthy Communities building located in the Old Log Church on the Alaska Highway. It not only acts as a resource but is also the centre for the Prenatal Nutrition program and the Children at Risk program.

A new post office building, which houses the courtroom and other government agencies was completed in 2001. Mail is trucked in five days a week from either Whitehorse or Dawson Creek.

Road access is by all-weather paved highway, with Watson Lake located at the junction of the Alaska Highway (connecting to Whitehorse and to Dawson Creek and Edmonton). The Robert Campbell Highway (connecting to the Northwest Territories) is an all weather gravel highway. The junction of the Stewart/Cassiar Highway with the Alaska Highway is 26 km from Watson Lake.

An airport is located 13 km north of the community on the Robert Campbell Highway. It has a runway capable of supporting a 737 aircraft. The airport building has been recognized by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Static displays depicting aviation in the southeast region will open in 2004. A charter fixed-wing and helicopter company are based in the community, offering passenger, freight, and courier services. A float-plane base is also located at the north end of Watson Lake (the lake) near the airport.

Watson Lake has many small retail outlets that provide services to the community. Two grocery stores and two department stores service it. A hardware store also supplies building materials. A strip mall along the Alaska Highway houses a women's clothing store, catalogue sales outlet, and an electronics outlet, as well as the local bank. There are five service stations, and two local companies supply heating oil. Propane is transported from Whitehorse. During the summer, seven hotels and motels are open; one of them closes during the winter. There are seven restaurants and fast-food establishments, six of which remain open year-round.

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

The four major hotels in Watson Lake offer fax and photocopying services to their customers. Three of these hotels remain open during the winter months. One hotel and one motel offer Internet access. Internet access can also be obtained through the library and Yukon College. The College has dedicated access while the library offers dial-up access only.

Meeting rooms are offered at the new Watson Lake Rec-Plex that can accommodate up to 500. Yukon College offers meeting rooms year-round as well as access to computers, fax, photocopying, and audio-conferencing. The Northern Lights Centre's 110-seat theatre can be used for multimedia presentations and supports video-conferencing.

The Town of Watson Lake has a cabin available for small meetings, and the Signpost Seniors can host small to medium-sized meetings. Two of the local hotels have meeting rooms, but only one is open year-round.

Watson Lake Price Survey

October 2003	*Whitehorse = 100*
Total Survey Items	106.5
Meat	82.4
Dairy/Eggs	n.a.
Fruit/Veg.	88.7
Bread/Cereal	86.2
Other Foods	127.5
Household Operations	113.6
Health & Personal Care	123.1
Gasoline	108.0
Cigarettes	n.a.

COST OF LIVING

In general, Whitehorse has the lowest prices in the Yukon. Because Watson Lake is on the Alaska Highway, a major supply route from the south, some prices are actually a bit lower than Whitehorse. As the table shows, however, other prices are substantially higher. On average, it costs almost 7 percent more to live in Watson Lake than in Whitehorse.

The 2001 Census showed 360 private dwellings in the Town of Watson Lake, excluding the First Nation settlement. Houses in the Town of Watson Lake were estimated as having an average value of $106,000 in 2001 and averaged two to three bedrooms. Although the 2001 Census showed that people renting homes paid an average of $667 per month, a survey conducted regularly by the Yukon government reports that rental accommodation in the community costs an average of $575.

An additional 100 to 120 private dwellings were counted in the First Nations settlements of Upper Liard, Two Mile, and Two and One-half Mile by the Yukon Region First Nations Profiles of 1998. About 80 percent of the First Nations homes were reported as administered by the Liard First Nation, with most of the remaining 20 percent owned by the householders.

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

Watson Lake is a very active community. Its recreational facilities surpass anything in southern communities of the same size. It has a heated swimming pool for summer use, tennis courts, waterslide, skateboard park, golf course, and a ski hill with 10 runs, two T-bars and night skiing. There are 96 kilometres of multipurpose trails around the town. The numerous parks include Wye Lake Park in the city centre; Lucky Lake, just outside of town; and the Sign Post Forest, a major tourist attraction. A new recreation complex was completed by 2000. It houses a three-lane bowling alley, hockey arena and curling rink with

artificial ice, a weight room, squash courts, saunas and showers, meeting rooms, and a community hall capable of seating 500 people. The community has more than 75 organizations, which provide activities and services to its citizens from preschoolers to seniors. Watson Lake also has two daycare facilities.

Wye Lake Park is a beautiful 26-hectare park in downtown Watson Lake. A three-km trail surrounds the park, which has a picnic area, playground and band shell/gazebo. Interpretive signs on plants and vegetation are placed along the pathways throughout the park, which is also an excellent place to view birds. The Town of Watson Lake hosts the Discovery Day and Halloween Night festivities there.

Lucky Lake Recreational Park boasts the only outdoor waterslide north of 60.A sandy beach, a ball diamond and hiking trails make this a favourite spot where residents and visitors swim and have picnics. The Town of Watson Lake hosts Canada Day Celebrations there as well. A three-km trail to picturesque Liard Canyon starts at the west end of the park. Across the Liard River is a small cement cairn with a brass plaque where George Dawson marked the BC/Yukon border in 1887.

A new town administration office opened in early 2000. It houses the Watson Lake Public Library collection and the community's Toy Lending Library, as well as the building inspector, council chambers and town administration offices. The Northern Lights Centre is a tourist attraction in the summer and is used for movies, laser shows, presentations, and an animation school in winter. And even in the long days of summer it is possible to enjoy the Aurora Borealis — or at least a high-tech representation of them — at the theatre.

In 1999, Canadian astronaut Julie Payette took two artifacts from the Town into space with her. They are on display at the centre, along with other mementos of the space program.

Watson Lake is renowned for its Sign Post Forest, a collection of signs from all over the world. It is said to be the largest collection of "stolen" property in the world. Each year tourists visiting the community leave behind a small memory of themselves by placing a sign from their hometown in the forest. A collection of equipment used in the building of the Alaska Highway is also located in the park.

The Department of Tourism and Culture operates the Visitor Reception Centre (VRC). An audio-visual presentation, shown in the 60-seat theatre, brings to life the hardships and adventure of the building of the Alaska Highway. The VRC is open from mid-May to mid-September.

CLIMATE

The climate in Watson Lake, as elsewhere in the Yukon, can vary considerably. Information on weather conditions over the 1971 to 2000 period showed the average daytime temperature in January reached about minus 19 degrees Celsius, dropping to minus 29 degrees C overnight. In July the daytime temperature averaged just over 21 degrees C, with overnight temperatures moving down to about 9

degrees Celsius. Annual precipitation over the 30-year period totalled 404 millimetres, including 255 mm of rain and 196.5 centimetres of snow.

MORE INFORMATION

The Town of Watson Lake has information available and posted on the Internet at http://www.yukonweb.com/community/watson/

Details about the Liard First Nation can be found in a book, *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*, published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1998. Information is also available on-line at http://sdiprod2.inac.gc.ca/FNProfiles/

For further information about the First Nation, see http://www.yfnta.org/

For information on occupations in the Yukon, working conditions, and the Yukon economy, see *Yukon WorkFutures* at http://www.workfutures.yk.ca

For information about the local environment, see the *Yukon State of the Environment Report* at http://www.taiga.net/yukonsoe/

For information about Watson Lake campus of Yukon College, go to http://yukoncollege.yk.ca/campuses/

The municipal government can be reached at Town of Watson Lake, Box 590, Watson Lake YT, Y0A 1C0, Phone: (867) 536-7778, Fax: (867) 536-7522.

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/

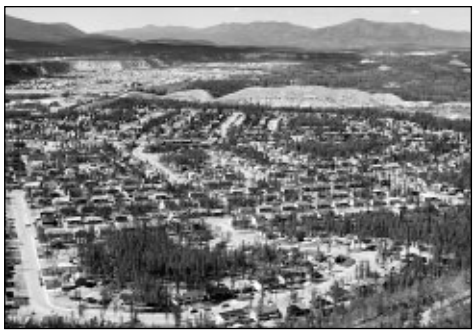
For general information about the Yukon, see Yukon Fact Sheets at http://www.gov.yk.ca/facts/

The Strategis Business Map has community information, links to Statistics Canada community information and a map system: http://commercecan.ic.gc.ca/scdt/bizmap/interface2.nsf/engdocBasic/O.html

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics has annual economic and statistical reviews at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/stats/index.html

For current job listings throughout the Yukon, check the Yukon office of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml

The Community of Whitehorse



Set in the wide valley of the Yukon River, Whitehorse is the capital of the Yukon and by far its largest community. Close to 70 percent of the total Yukon population lives in the community of Whitehorse; this includes the City of Whitehorse, Mount Lorne, Ibex Valley, Marsh Lake and surrounding areas. The city lies within the shared traditional territory of the Ta'an Kwach'an Council (TKC) and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation (KDFN).

Historically, First Nations used the area around Whitehorse for food gathering and as a meeting place. The settlement of Whitehorse developed during the Klondike Gold Rush as a transportation hub; Whitehorse was the head of navigable waters on the Yukon River and an important stop on the journey to the gold fields. Once the White Pass & Yukon Route Railway linked Whitehorse with the Alaskan port of Skagway, Whitehorse became the centre of transportation into and out of the Territory. Since the Klondike Gold Rush era, Whitehorse has experienced a series of population booms and busts, mainly linked to mining and highway construction. In 1953 the Yukon government moved the capital to Whitehorse from Dawson City.

Whitehorse is now a contemporary city and the government and business centre for the Yukon. The Yukon government headquarters and several federal government offices are located there. The Council of Yukon First Nations also has its headquarters in Whitehorse. Most major Yukon businesses, utility companies and services operate out of the city.

Government activity provides considerable economic stability to the Whitehorse area. Tourism has become a major source of economic growth for the city. Tourists often visit as they pass through, either along the Alaska Highway or by flying into the Whitehorse airport.

Total Population

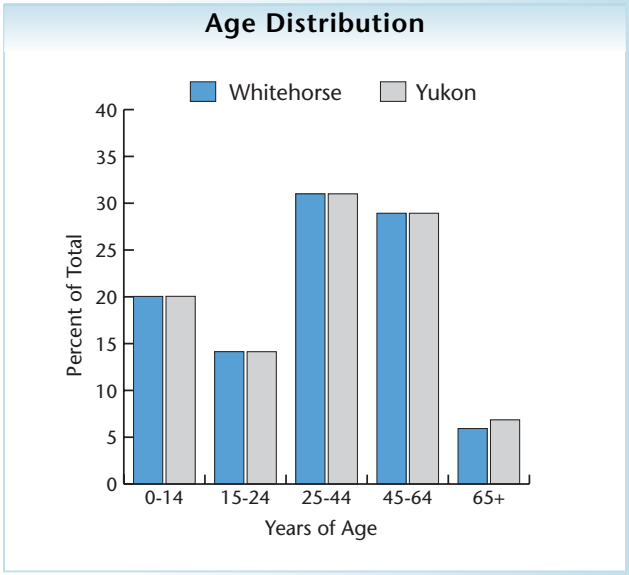
year	*population*
2003	22,213
2002	22,192
2001	22,476
2000	22,738
1999	22,917
1998	23,406
1997	24,018
1996	23,611
1995	23,012
1994	22,854
1993	23,110

PEOPLE

In 2003, the population of the community of Whitehorse averaged 22,213, close to the previous year's level of 22,192. The Whitehorse population increased in the early 1990s, reaching over 23,000 in the mid-1990s before declining a little in the past few years. Some of the population shifts seen in the 1990s were in reaction to the opening and closing of the lead-zinc mine at Faro, although other economic activity supports the majority of the population in the community.

Movement of people into and out of the area was quite high in the 1990s as the economy reacted to fluctuations in mining. Whitehorse has a stable population base, however. The 2001Census reported that

approximately 79 percent of people living in the Whitehorse area had been living there in 1996. About 16 percent of those people living in Whitehorse in 2001 had moved from outside the Yukon, mainly from other provinces. The 2001 Census also reported that for the whole of the Yukon, about a third of the population had been born in the Yukon; this proportion will also be reflected in Whitehorse. In recent years, immigration to the Yukon and to Whitehorse from outside Canada has been quite low, although some of the movers from other provinces have been immigrants. The Whitehorse population now includes people from many countries.



First Nations people make up close to 16 percent of the total Whitehorse-area population. This compares with First Nations representation of close to 45 percent for the rest of the Yukon. The Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the Ta'an Kwach'an Council both have their homes in the Whitehorse area. Other First Nations people, mainly from elsewhere in the Yukon, make up a large part of the First Nations population in the community. Since Whitehorse makes up such a large share of the overall Yukon population and thus influences territorial numbers, it has a very similar age distribution to the Yukon as a whole. Slightly more of the population is in the 15-to-24 age group, reflecting the fact that Whitehorse is an education centre and a place where young people come looking for work. There is also a slight difference between Whitehorse and the rest of the Yukon in the proportion of older people in the population: 6 percent of the Whitehorse-area population is 65 years of age or older, compared to 8 percent of the population in the rest of the Yukon.

At the end of 2003, 51 percent of the Whitehorse population was female, a little higher than the 50 percent figure for the Yukon as a whole.

FIRST NATIONS

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation, based in the McIntyre subdivision of Whitehorse, has cultural affiliations with the Northern and Southern Tutchone as well as with the Tagish from Marsh Lake but is also an amalgamation of many Yukon First Nation culture groups. In 2004 the registered population as reported by the Kwanlin Dun First Nation was 949. In 2004 the Ta'an Kwach'an Council reported a population of 432 registered members.

The Ta'an Kwach'an Council, who separated from the Kwanlin Dun First Nation in September of 1998, are affiliated with the Southern Tutchone Tribal Council and has members who are Southern Tutchone and Tagish. The traditional territory of the Ta'an is located around the Lake Laberge area. The Ta'an Kwach'an Council signed their land claims and self-government agreements on January 13, 2002. The agreements came into effect in April 2002. Negotiators for Canada, Yukon and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation have completed negotiations of land claims

and self-government agreements and these agreements will be put to a ratification vote in the fall of 2004.

The First Nations people of the Whitehorse region enjoyed a nomadic way of life and traveled extensively throughout the area following big game, fishing, and trapping. Archaeological evidence at Canyon City shows that First Nation people have occupied that area for thousands of years. Many Kwanlin Dun and Ta'an Kwach'an First Nations people worked for the steamboats that navigated the Yukon River up to Dawson City. Some were woodcutters, and others worked on board. Frank Slim, from the Ta'an, was a captain of one of the steamers. The two First Nations in the area of what is now Whitehorse were grouped together as the Whitehorse Indian Band, which was located in the Industrial area of Whitehorse. They later moved to the McIntyre subdivision.

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation are currently negotiating their land claims and self-government agreements with the federal and territorial governments. Their Final Agreement will follow the format of the Umbrella Final Agreement, but with specific provisions that are unique to them.

Kwanlin Dun today strives towards unification as a prerequisite to progress in other areas. They also face unique issues stemming from their presence in an urban centre rather than a smaller community. Kwanlin Dun First Nation plays a vital role in traditional justice systems adapted to modern ways, such as circle sentencing. The First Nation is busy with cultural events related to children. Elders are teaching them about ways of the past and how to survive on the land.

Chief Jim Boss, the traditional chief of Ta'an Kwach'an, recognized shortly after the Gold Rush that his people needed protection for their land and culture. He was prompted to write a letter to Ottawa stating that his people should be given some compensation. The outcome was that a small amount of "land set aside" or a reserve was established for the Ta'an and the case was considered closed. Today the Ta'an Kwach'an Council is striving to preserve their culture and language and also pursue activities that assist in this process. The Ta'an Kwach'an Council has established the Mundessa Development Corporation, which is responsible for the commercial activities of the First Nation. In the past the Ta'an Kwach'an was governed by a hereditary male leader from the Wolf moiety. The First Nation has changed to a democratic voting system and elected its first chief, a woman, in 2004.

THE ECONOMY

Whitehorse is the government centre for the Yukon, and government activities provide support and stability to the community. Whitehorse also has a diversified business sector which serves the entire Territory. In common with many other countries and areas in Canada, tourism to the Yukon and Whitehorse slowed after 2001. Over the long term, however, tourism is growing in importance to the Whitehorse economy.

The community benefits both directly, from visiting tourists, and by providing the transportation and business base for tourism activities elsewhere in the Yukon. The community's large and increasingly stable population, together with the growth of tourism, has encouraged the development of other service industries. Employment in Whitehorse amounts to 73 percent of the Yukon total.

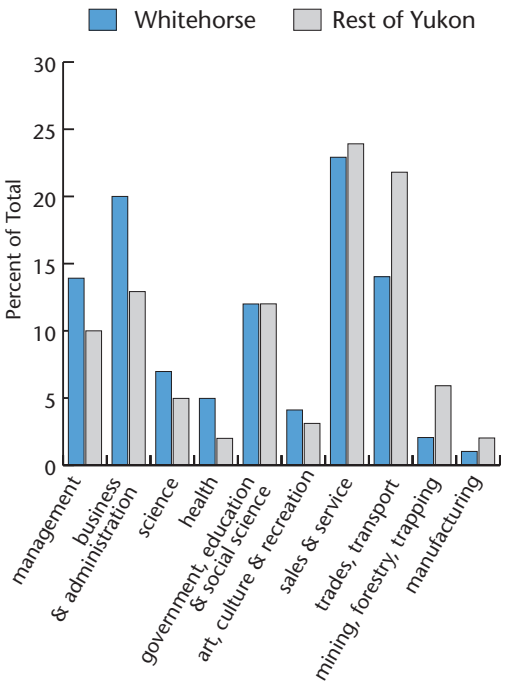
The Whitehorse economy still relies in part on the state of Yukon mining, and many of the businesses that provide services to the mining industry are headquartered in the city. When mining is in the doldrums, as it has been in the past few years, the Whitehorse economy shows signs of malaise, with increased unemployment and some population loss.

Government is the major single source of economic activity in Whitehorse, and the government services sector accounts for 20 percent of total employment. In smaller communities in the Yukon, the proportion of employment in government services may be a little larger but in Whitehorse the wide array of government activities encompasses most public services for the Territory. Other significant factors in the economy are education services, with 7 percent of employment, and health and social services, with 10 percent of employment. Health service is concentrated in Whitehorse, while the share in education is close to that elsewhere in the Yukon. The city's role as business centre for the Yukon is reflected in the strength of various business-oriented services. Professional services, including technical areas, provided 5 percent of employment. Finance, insurance and real estate stood at almost 4 percent. In comparison, the rest of the Yukon has far less than 2 percent of employment in these sectors. Other key services provided out of Whitehorse for the Territory are various utilities. Information and cultural industries provide 5 percent of total employment in Whitehorse.

Whitehorse has a far lower proportion of people working in the primary industries — especially mining, forestry, fishing and trapping — than the rest of the Yukon. There is, however, some agriculture employment around the Whitehorse area. Whitehorse people working in sectors such as mining and forestry are likely to provide services such as testing, rather than work in production. The accommodation and food services sector accounts for 8 percent of total Whitehorse employment. This is below the proportion found in the rest of the Yukon, where many communities rely heavily on tourism for jobs. Employment in retail and wholesale trade, however, at 15 percent of the total, is above the proportion found elsewhere in the Territory. Whitehorse is the supply centre for most Yukon communities, and people tend to buy many products, especially big-ticket items, directly from Whitehorse. Other services, including recreation activities, provide about 7 percent of employment, close to the proportion elsewhere in the Yukon.

Transportation is linked to business travel, tourism and other travel around the Yukon. It contributes about 4 percent of Whitehorse's total employment, about the same proportion as in the rest of the Yukon. Construction activity is variable, but in 2001 provided about 7 percent of employment in the Whitehorse area.

Employment Share by Occupation



WORK

At the time of the 2001 Census, about 81 percent of Whitehorse people aged 15 years and over reported that they were involved in the labour market. This is slightly above the overall Yukon proportion of 80 percent. Unemployment was lower than elsewhere in the Yukon. At the time of the 2001 Census, unemployment in Whitehorse was estimated to be about 10 percent, compared to the Yukon-wide average of 12 percent. Unemployment was higher for men than for women: 12 percent, compared to about 8 percent.

Young people aged 15 to 24 are only slightly more likely to be active in the labour market in Whitehorse than in many other parts of the Yukon. About 69 percent of the age group in the Whitehorse area reported that they were in the labour market in 2001. Unemployment for young people in Whitehorse is about 20 percent, higher than for all other age groups.

On average in 2003, 1,097 individuals in Whitehorse claimed employment insurance payments. This number is just over 60 percent of all claims in the Yukon, reflecting an employment situation that is slightly better than the Yukon average.

Whitehorse has far more full-time, full year work than elsewhere in the Yukon. The 2001 Census reported that almost 50 percent of workers living in Whitehorse said their work was full-time, full year. This compares with a Yukon average of 46 percent. Once the influence of Whitehorse is accounted for, only 36 percent of those living in the rest of the Yukon reported having full-time, full year work.

Self-employment in Whitehorse, at 13 percent of all employment, is close to the share elsewhere in the Yukon.

Average employment income for all workers living in Whitehorse was reported by the 2001 Census at $33,830, higher than the Yukon average of $31,500. For those working full-time, full year, average earnings in Whitehorse in 2001 came in at $46,100, approximately 3 percent above the equivalent Yukon average, which was reported at about $44,600 in 2001.

People living in Whitehorse work in many different occupations, reflecting the modern and diversified nature of the Whitehorse economy.

Sales and service occupations employ the largest share of the Whitehorse workforce. At the time of the 2001 Census, about 23 percent of employment in the community was in sales and service occupations, such as retail sales, cashiers, cooks, food service jobs and cleaners. This proportion is slightly below the rest of the Yukon.

Business and administrative occupations make up the community's second-largest employment field. About 20 percent of all employment in 2001 derived from this group, which includes occupations such as accountants, bookkeepers, and clerical workers. The high share of these occupations in the Whitehorse labour market reflects the city's position as the territorial centre for government and business activity.

Management occupations in Whitehorse provide almost 14 percent of total employment. A further 12 percent comes from the government, education, and social services field, which includes occupations such as teachers, social workers, lawyers, and policy and community service workers. The proportion is high because so much of the Territory's government, education and business activity occurs in Whitehorse.

Whitehorse is also the Yukon's major health centre, with a hospital and a full range of health practitioners. Health occupations make up almost 5 percent of employment. Science and technology occupations account for almost 7 percent of employment in Whitehorse, a higher proportion than elsewhere in the Yukon. These occupations include engineers, technicians, surveyors, and computer programmers.

Occupations in art, culture and recreation provide almost 4 percent of employment in Whitehorse, much the same share as elsewhere in the Yukon.

Occupations in the trades, transport, equipment operating, mining, forestry and other primary sectors make up a far smaller share of Whitehorse jobs.

EDUCATION

The 2001 Census reported that 44 percent of Whitehorse people aged 20 or older had taken some non-university education or training after leaving school. About 30 percent had taken some university-level education. About three-quarters of these, or 20 percent of people aged 20 and over, had completed at least a bachelor-level degree. About 24 percent of the 20-plus population said their highest level of education was some secondary school (grades 9 and above). Just 4 percent reported completing Grade 9 or less.

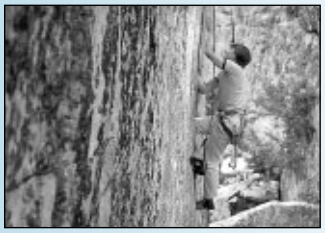
FUTURE PROSPECTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The economy in Whitehorse is sustained to a large extent by government activities, and employment in various government sectors provides long-term jobs and good incomes.

Mining still has the potential to be a major influence on the economic health of the Yukon and Whitehorse.There are mines at various stages of development in the Yukon, but all are waiting for higher prices. Exploration activity has plummeted in the past few years, although the territory is starting to see an increase in exploration for gold and base metals. Some exploration work is being done at three gold-silver deposits in the Mount Skookum area, south of Whitehorse. The Yukon is generally considered under-explored for most minerals. Yukon mines developed to date have tended to be high cost and, therefore, vulnerable when mineral prices decline. Mining recovery and growth would certainly boost the Whitehorse economy.

Whitehorse tends to have more stable work and lower unemployment than elsewhere in the Yukon. Nevertheless, there is still a need for economic growth and job growth. The drive for diversification in the

Whitehorse economy comes from a young workforce, high unemployment for both young people and First Nations people, and an effort to reduce the dependence on the mining industry because of its repeated downturns.



Tourism is one area that has shown considerable growth in the Yukon over the long term. Although the number of tourists declined from 2002–2003, tourism is still an important part of the Whitehorse economy. The longer-term growth of tourism in the Yukon and Whitehorse is reflected not only in the numbers of tourists coming for traditional summer tourism but also in the types of activities available. Many tourism activities emphasize the adventure and wilderness potential of the Yukon and the tourism season is extended by winter tourism activities. Although the number of tourists coming from the United States was down a little in the past two years, tourism from the U.S. remains the largest single source for Whitehorse and the Yukon. Increasing numbers of tourists are coming to the Yukon from Europe and other parts of the world. This provides more potential for job growth in Whitehorse as the transportation and service centre for Yukon-wide tourism.

Yukon First Nations have been increasing their economic development activities. Dana Naye Ventures is a lending agent for First Nations businesses in tourism and other fields. In addition to the many individual First Nations people who own and operate small businesses, First Nations consortiums have invested in businesses as diverse as major hotels, office buildings, and a window-manufacturing company. Members of the Yukon First Nations Tourism Association emphasize tourism as a source of economic and job growth and a number of First Nations tourism businesses operate out of Whitehorse. These include retail, arts and crafts, outfitting and adventure, and air or helicopter services.

The Yukon Government has encouraged the development of a film industry, largely based in Whitehorse. Training and support for northern productions come from several sources. At a wider level, new communications technology allows a relatively remote centre like Whitehorse to develop economic activities that rely on the skills and knowledge of the workforce rather than on physical location. Northern Native Broadcasting operates a radio station in Whitehorse, produces television documentaries and makes custom videos for clients. The cultural labour force, which employs almost as many people as health care occupations, is a growth area in the Yukon economy.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Education from elementary to post-secondary is available in Whitehorse. There are ten elementary schools, including one with a French immersion program, and three secondary schools. Whitehorse also has a French-language school that offers both elementary and secondary education. Like all Yukon schools, the core curriculum (80%) follows the British Columbia Ministry of Education curriculum, and

students are eligible to write B.C. departmental exams. The community also has a number of daycare centres and family day homes. Two schools operate after-school care programs. The Child Development Centre offers services for pre-school children with special needs.

Ayamdigut Campus, the largest campus of Yukon College, is located in Whitehorse. It offers university credit programs in arts, sciences, and northern studies, as well as programs in renewable resource management and environmental officer training. Trades programs are available for apprentice-level and pre-employment training. Computer studies, business administration, office administration, tourism and culinary arts are available. Health and human services programs include early childhood development, community support worker, and home support worker/nursing home attendant. In addition, cooperative arrangements with other institutions allow students to obtain bachelor's degrees in social work and education, and master's degrees in public administration. Academic upgrading is available for those who wish to finish high school, or prepare for further studies. Using a variety of distance education technologies, including videoconferencing, courses are available throughout the Yukon.

The campus features a lecture theatre and many classrooms, laboratories, computer labs, on-campus residences and a childcare centre. Yukon College has an academic library with 33,000 book titles, as well as periodicals, videos, audiocassettes, CD-ROMS and online databases. The library is available to the public for an annual fee. It has reciprocal sharing agreements with the Yukon's other libraries, as well as an inter-library loan system that extends outside the Yukon.

The Northern Research Institute, housed at Ayamdigut, serves to promote and coordinate research in the Yukon. Many instructors at the college are also active researchers in a variety of fields. Yukon College is also a member of the University of the Arctic, an international network of higher-education institutions around the circumpolar north.

A full range of health care services is available in Whitehorse. Whitehorse General hospital has about 50 beds and a staff of approximately 111 nurses. The hospital includes maternity care. First Nations Health Programs are in place in the hospital, with a mandate to ensure that health care provided to First Nations people is culturally sensitive. More than 60 physicians (including specialists) have practices in Whitehorse, and a further 98 (including locums) are licensed in the Yukon. The latter group, many of them specialists, provides itinerant services in Whitehorse. Dentists' services are readily available, as is a full-time ambulance service. There are also two extended-care facilities, seniors' housing and a senior citizens' centre.

The Yukon Family Services Association and the Yukon Housing Corporation provide services from their main offices in Whitehorse, and the YTG Health and Social Services department provides a range of services in the Whitehorse area. A women's transition house, Kaushee's

Place, provides emergency shelter as well as longer-term housing assistance and counselling services.

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Ta'an Kwach'an Council provide a range of social services to their members, including social assistance and elder care.

The Yukon and federal government departments have their main offices in Whitehorse and provide a full range of individual and business services.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) has a full-service office in Whitehorse.

The RCMP provides policing with a staff at the Yukon headquarters of about 40 officers, including an inspector and First Nation community constables. An aircraft section of the RCMP, based at Whitehorse, has one aircraft. The RCMP also has a satellite office in McIntyre subdivision. Probation services are provided in Whitehorse. Whitehorse is also the location of the Territory's main correctional centre, a secure facility for young offenders, and a halfway house.

The City of Whitehorse has a fire department with a chief, 20 full-time staff, and approximately 30 volunteer firefighters. The fire department operates from two well-equipped fire halls.

A 911 service is available in Whitehorse and surrounding areas for emergency police, fire, and ambulance responses.

The Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd. supplies hydroelectric power from the Whitehorse Rapids dam at Schwatka Lake.

Canada Post flies mail in daily; mail is also trucked in five times a week. Local Internet access is available from a number of Internet service providers. Northwestel provides a full range of telephone services in Whitehorse.

Whitehorse Transit provides public bus transportation, including a Handi-Bus service. Several taxi companies also operate in Whitehorse.

Full library services are available at the Whitehorse Public Library, including Internet access for the public.

Full banking services are available in Whitehorse, with all major Canadian banks represented.

All-weather highways connect Whitehorse to all Yukon communities except Old Crow. Whitehorse is also linked to Alaska and southern Canada by the Alaska Highway and the Stewart/Cassiar Highway. There is road access to the Alaskan ports of Skagway and Haines. The Dempster Highway provides access to the Mackenzie Delta area of the Northwest Territories.

Whitehorse International Airport has three paved runways and is maintained year-round; it is a Canada Customs port of entry. Daily scheduled jet service, along with extra seasonal services, connects Whitehorse and southern Canadian cities. International flights from Germany occur in the summer months. Air service is also available from Whitehorse to most Yukon communities, to Inuvik, Yellowknife and Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories, and to Juneau and Fairbanks in

Alaska. Helicopter charter service is available through several companies based in Whitehorse. Float-plane facilities are available at Schwatka Lake.

Regular freight service is provided by truck between Whitehorse and southern population centres, and several local carriers provide freight service within the Territory.

Whitehorse offers a wide variety of recreation facilities, including ice arenas, outdoor skating rinks, a curling rink, a downhill ski facility, a dog mushing track, a bowling alley, a stock car racing track, cinemas, golf courses, and a ski chalet and cross-country ski trails, some of which are lighted for night skiing. The city also has a squash club, several fitness clubs, biathlon/rifle and pistol ranges, and equestrian show grounds. In addition, Whitehorse has a new aquatic centre, soccer fields, tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, baseball diamonds, and many parks and playgrounds. An electric trolley extends along part of the Whitehorse riverfront. The Yukon River is popular with canoe and kayak enthusiasts. Hiking and cycling trails link most parts of the city and offer access to surrounding wilderness areas.

A host society has been established for the 2007 Canada Winter Games, the first such competition to be held north of 60. The city's cultural facilities include the Yukon Arts Centre, which houses a modern theatre/concert hall and an art gallery. The Guild Hall is a smaller theatre combined with a dance studio. Yukon artists and craftspeople are featured in the Yukon Government Building's art collection, on display in the foyer, and at the Captain Martin House gallery, as well as in a number of local stores and an artists' cooperative. The Yukon's history and prehistory are displayed at the MacBride Museum, the Yukon Transportation Museum, the Beringia Interpretive Centre, the S.S. Klondike National Historic Site, the Roundhouse and at several other heritage sites.

Whitehorse has an active retail sector, with several major chain stores as well as many locally-owned businesses. The majority of retail activity is centred in the city's downtown, although some businesses are located in other parts of the city. Whitehorse has one major indoor mall and one department store, several smaller indoor and strip malls, and numerous individual stores. Whitehorse retail outlets offer a variety of products, including clothing, electronics, music, footwear, photography supplies, hardware, sports wear and equipment, craft supplies, computers, home appliances, and furniture. Other specialty stores offer bed and bath supplies, chocolates, pet supplies, greeting cards, building and construction supplies, lottery tickets, sewing and quilting supplies, knitting supplies, flowers, gifts, wine and beer making supplies, locally-made soaps and automotive parts. A Thrift Shop and a number of other stores sell used items, such as women's, maternity, and children's clothing, music, videos, books, and sports equipment.

Whitehorse Price Index

	Alberta = 100	*BC = 100*
All Items	125.7	111.5
Food	135.3	115.5
Home consumption	133.8	116.5
Restaurant meals	137.6	113.4
Housing	137.8	118.9
Shelter	150.1	126.1
Household operation	125.9	113.8
Furnishing	110.9	97.8
Clothing	119.3	106.9
All transportation	111.1	102.3
Private transport	102.2	95.2
Public Transport	155.9	135.3
Health and personal care	116.5	100.6
Health care	122.4	116.4
Personal care	112.9	91.4
Recreation, reading, education	107.7	107.8
Recreation	110.9	107.0
Reading and education	91.7	111.5
Tobacco and alcohol	123.5	99.9
Tobacco	116.5	91.8
Alcohol	129.7	106.1

Source: Yukon Bureau of Statistics

Six major grocery stores and many convenience stores are located throughout the city, as well as health food stores, a few specialty bakeries, and two delis.

Visitors to Whitehorse can choose from seven major hotels and more than 15 smaller motels and hotels. Most are open year round. More than 17 B&B establishments are located in and just outside the city. Some are operated seasonally; others are open year round. Hostels, campgrounds and RV parks are also available in the city and the surrounding area.

Whitehorse has more than 50 restaurants serving a wide variety of foods. Many major chain restaurants are represented, in addition to locally-owned restaurants. These restaurants serve everything from fast food to various kinds of international cuisine. Specialty coffee is available, along with a wide array of food items and cooking styles. Most restaurants in Whitehorse are open throughout the year.

More than 12 service stations and fuel companies are located in Whitehorse, offering gasoline, propane and other automobile fuels, home heating fuels, and automotive repairs and servicing.

SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

In addition to the variety of retail and food services and accommodation, Whitehorse offers a number of additional services to people visiting the city for business purposes. Most business services are available only on weekdays although a few are available on Saturdays and Sundays. Faxes can be sent and received at several different locations during regular business hours on weekdays. Some of these businesses also offer fax services on Saturdays. Several printing companies and retail stores provide photocopying services during regular weekday business hours.

The Whitehorse Public Library offers photocopying services on Saturdays and Sundays, as well as weekdays and evenings. Internet providers offer Internet and email access to the public on an hourly basis, as does the Whitehorse Public Library. Cell phone service is available within Whitehorse and some of the immediate outlying areas. Other business services in Whitehorse include printing companies, accounting firms, secretarial services, office supply stores, advertising and graphic design firms, and computer servicing outlets.

COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Whitehorse is generally higher than in southern Canadian communities. It is lower on average, however, than the cost of living elsewhere in the Yukon or in communities in many parts of northern Canada. The accompanying table, which was taken from a survey done in 1997 but still reflects the current situation, gives an indication of Whitehorse prices in comparison with prices in Alberta and British Columbia. In general the rate of inflation in Whitehorse has regularly been lower over the past several years than it has been across Canada. From 2000 to 2003 the consumer price index in Whitehorse

increased 2.0 percent or less each year while the Canadian consumer price index averaged increases of about 2.5 percent each year.

In 2003/04, real estate sales of over 400 properties showed housing prices in Whitehorse at an average of close to $170,000. Prices ranged according to neighbourhood, from a low of about $120,000 to a high of about $191,000. The average rent, as measured by the Census in 2001, was $716.

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation reports that they administer 217 houses for use by their members. The First Nation reports that there are approximately 250 housing units on KDFN land; those not administered by the First Nation are privately owned. The Ta'an Kwach'an Council administers about 10 houses for use by their members.

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

Whitehorse is a small city, but feels much larger.

The city has more than its share of big-city amenities: cinemas, stores, restaurants and espresso bars, cultural events and public entertainment, indoor arenas and swimming pool, and commuter bus service. Many of these facilities are not available in other Yukon communities. In fact, they might not be available in a southern Canadian city the size of Whitehorse. The difference is Whitehorse's position as capital, and as service centre for all of the Yukon and parts of northwestern British Columbia and Southeast Alaska.

Many people choose to live in Whitehorse for its combination of modern city comfort and small-town neighbourliness, in one of the most beautiful wilderness settings in North America. Neighbours in Whitehorse know each other, and strangers chat in elevators and checkout lines. People tend to be deeply involved in the community, through a myriad of organizations and interest groups. The wilderness is on the city's doorstep, and residents make full use of it. Sports and outdoor activities are very popular. A great deal of business in Whitehorse is conducted at lunch and coffee meetings, partly to avoid conflicts with soccer games, evening skiing, school council meetings, kayaking practice, or any of the countless other activities that people enjoy.

CLIMATE

Historical weather reports, based on three decades of records, show that the average daytime temperature in Whitehorse reaches a maximum of minus 13.3 degrees Celsius in January, dropping to minus 22 degrees C overnight. In July the daytime temperature reaches a maximum, on average, of 20.5 degrees C, with overnight lows of 7.7 C. Whitehorse has a relatively dry climate. Annual precipitation over the past 30 years has averaged 267 millimetres, including 163 mm of rain and 145 centimetres of snow.

MORE INFORMATION

Community and business service information on Whitehorse is available at the City of Whitehorse home page, http://www.city.whitehorse.yk.ca/

The municipal government can be contacted at City of Whitehorse, 2121 Second Avenue, Whitehorse YT, Y1A 1C2, Phone: (867) 667-6401, Fax: (867) 668-8384.

Further information about Whitehorse is available at http://relocatecanada.com/whitehorse/index.html and at http://www.yukonalaska.com/communities/whitehorsehist.html

For information about the Council of Yukon First Nations, go to http://www.cyfn.ca/

For information about Yukon College, go to http://yukoncollege.yk.ca/

For information about community health, justice, and social services, go to http://www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/

Details about the Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Ta'an Kwach'an s Council can be found in a book, *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*, published by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1998. Information is also available on-line at http://sdiprod2.inac.gc.ca/FNProfiles/

For more information about the two Whitehorse First Nations, go to http://www.yfnta.org/

For information on occupations in the Yukon, working conditions, and the Yukon economy, see *Yukon WorkFutures* at http://www.workfutures.yk.ca

For information about the local environment, see the *Yukon State of the Environment Report* at http://www.taiga.net/yukonsoe/

For general information about the Yukon, see Yukon Fact Sheets at http://www.gov.yk.ca/facts/

The Strategis Business Map has some community information, links to Statistics Canada community information and a map system: http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/scdt/bizmap/interface2.nsf/engdocBasic/o.html

The Yukon Bureau of Statistics has annual economic and statistical reviews at http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts./eco/stats/index.html

For current job listings throughout the Yukon, check the Yukon office of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada at http:www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/home.shtml

See the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce at http://www.whitehorsechamber.com

Information sources and notes

The numbers and population trends of **People** living in the community have been provided by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics. Updates are regularly made available in the *Yukon Statistical Review Annual Reports* and the quarterly reviews published by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics. These numbers are derived from health administrative records and provide the most current population estimates for communities. The age distributions of the population and gender information were also derived from this source. Census data from the 2001 Census of Canada have been used for other population information, such as the First Nations proportion. Census data were also used to describe the mobility of community residents.

Some **First Nations** provided current membership information. These numbers may include registered beneficiaries, non-beneficiary citizens and others. For other First Nations registered membership information was provided from the statistical database of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Some of this information is reported on their website. Other information in the First Nations sections was drawn from a variety of First Nation and other sources.

For **The Economy** the 2001 Census of Canada provides the core information on employment shares by industry. Other information was drawn from Yukon and federal government publications, such as those on mining, tourism and parks. Local sources provided additional information.

Information on **Work** is largely drawn from the 2001 Census. This section covers participation or involvement in the labour market (money economy), which includes both the number of people employed and the number of people who are unemployed but looking for work. Other aspects covered include work patterns such as full-time, full year, incidence of self-employment, earned incomes and the main occupations found in each community. For some communities Census data for a few subdivisions (geographic areas) were combined to best reflect the overall community situation. Employment Insurance claimant numbers come from Human Resources Development Canada's administrative data as reported in the *Yukon Statistical Review: 2003 Annual Report*. Further information on work characteristics came from other community, Yukon or other government sources. Local sources were consulted extensively. A detailed description of occupations and the nature of work and labour markets in the Yukon can be found in *Yukon WorkFutures*.

Education levels of the adult population, 20 years of age and older, are from the 2001 Census.

The major information sources for **Community and Business Services** include local, municipal and other descriptions of each community, tourism reports, Yukon land and environment reviews, Yukon College, schools and other Internet sites. Community contributors (see Acknowledgements) also provided information. Internet sites have been listed at the end of each profile for further reference.

Housing numbers, values and costs were derived from the 2001 Census with additional information provided by First Nations or drawn from the *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles* and Yukon Bureau of Statistics material. The **cost of living** information was taken from Yukon government Community Spatial Price Indices, as reported in the *Yukon Statistical Review: 2003 Annual Report*.

Living in the Community was written by community contributors (see Acknowledgements).

Climate records are from Environment Canada records as reported in the *Yukon Statistical Review: 2003 Annual Report* or were obtained directly from Environment Canada.