

Yukon First Nations Defence and Security Industry Conference

Dates: Wednesday, April 22 and Thursday, April 23, 2025

Purpose: This conference, hosted by Yukon Assembly of First Nations and Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce, brings together Yukon First Nation governments, development corporations, defence industry leaders, Armed Forces members, and government partners to explore collaboration in the growing defence and security sectors. With major investments underway, it is critical that Yukon First Nations are not just participants, but key decision-makers and partners. Yukon First Nations have a longstanding legacy of leadership and innovation in the North. This conference is a platform to build strategic partnerships, drive economic opportunities, and ensure First Nation priorities shape the future of Arctic defence.

Location: Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, Whitehorse, Yukon

Day 1

Time

Agenda Item

Setting the Context

Objective: To create understanding of the broader context of what is occurring and dispel myths and misconceptions.

9:00-9:15am

Welcome

Kluane Adamek, Regional Chief, Assembly of First Nations Yukon Region

9:15-10:00am

Opening Ceremony

10:00-10:30am

The Legacy of the Canadian Forces and United States Army in the Yukon

10:30-11:00am

Moderated Discussion – Arctic Security and Defence: fact versus fiction?

11:00-11:15am

Break

11:15am-12:00pm

Moderated Discussion – Understanding Import/Export Markets and Supply Changes in a Changing International Trade Environment

12:00-1:00pm Lunch (provided)

Supporting Industries and Infrastructure

Objective: To consider the interconnection between Arctic security and defence and other key industries that Yukon First Nations are considering making investments.

1:00-2:00pm **Keynote – The Economy of Defence: Understanding the critical industries required for defence from critical minerals to transportation to telecommunications**

2:00-2:15pm *Break*

2:15-2:45pm **Energy Infrastructure and Defence**

Concurrent Workshops

3:00-5:00pm **Workshop 1: Energy Infrastructure**
Hosted by Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation

Attendance is limited to representatives from Yukon First Nation and Transboundary First Nation Governments and Development Corporations.

Workshop 2: An Introduction to Doing Business in the Yukon
Hosted by Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce

Attendance is open to any interested attendee, but is primarily intended for federal government officials and officials from outside the Yukon.

- Day 1 concludes -

6:30-9:00pm **Dinner and Networking Event**

Day 2

Time Agenda Item

Understanding the Defence Industry

Objective: To raise awareness about what the “defence industry” means in terms of the Yukon, the Arctic, and Canada, and highlight opportunities geared towards First Nation procurement.

9:00-9:15am **Opening remarks**

9:15-9:30am **Joint Keynote – Federal/Territorial Collaboration on Arctic Security and Defence**

9:30-10:30am	Moderated Discussion – The Perspective of Industry
10:30-10:45am	<i>Break</i>
10:45am-12:00pm	Facilitating First Nation and Industry Collaboration
12:00-1:00pm	<i>Lunch (provided)</i>
1:00-1:30pm	Preparing a Yukon First Nation Labour Force for Defence Opportunities
1:30-1:45pm	Closing Remarks Kluane Adamek, Regional Chief, Assembly of First Nations Yukon Region
1:45-2:00pm	Closing Ceremony
2:30-5:30pm	Workshop: Getting Started in Defence Procurement - A Primer for Yukon First Nation Development Corporations <i>Attendance is limited to representatives from Yukon First Nation Development Corporations or businesses.</i>
- Day 2 concludes -	