



For Immediate Release:

Yukon Chamber of Commerce Comments Issues a Report Card on the Yukon Territorial Budget for 2017 – 2018 and Gives it an B+ Grade

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WHITEHORSE- The Yukon Chamber gives the 2017 – 2018 Yukon Territorial Budget an “B+”.

The Yukon Government released its 2017/2018 budget on April 27. The Yukon Chamber of Commerce President and Treasurer received a budget briefing from government officials and attended the Premier’s Budget speech. After reading the budget address, highlights and economic outlook we are issuing our annual “Budget Report Card”.

The Yukon Chamber of Commerce awards an overall grade of “B+”, with the following observations:

- The Chamber sees capital investment plans in the budget as a significant opportunity for job creation if procurement and tendering processes are improved. With a near-record capital budget of \$309.41 million projected, 30% being allocated to Health and Social Services, 27% to Highways and Public Works and 23% to Community Services the government now needs to make sure that they ensure Yukon businesses and workers can participate in the jobs and contracts.
- We applaud the reduction of the General Corporate Tax Rate from 15% to 12%. This delivers on the 20% reduction promised during the election campaign.
- We are encouraged by the reduction of the Small Corporations tax rate from 3% to 2%. While we view the Government’s plan to evaluate the implications of this reduction as fiscally prudent, we encourage the Government to live up to its commitments to the business community – to reduce the Small Corporations rate to 0%.

Other observations include:

- The increase in the Regional Economic Development Fund’s budget from \$405,000 to \$800,000 to stimulate economic development in Yukon Communities.
- The announced \$1,000,000 investment in the Municipal Matching Rental Construction Program as a potentially constructive approach to increasing the stock of affordable rental units across the territory.
- We like the introduction of a 5 year budget projection. We are concerned that the last 3 years of their current projection is a deficit without any plan or commentary on how they intend to manage the deficit. But, given it is their first year and taking over fiscal management from a previous long term government, we expect that the Government will provide more detail and revise these projections over time.
- The Chamber also views the new financial oversight committee that will include participation from the business community as a positive step.

For full details please see the attached report card.

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