



Village of Haines Junction

May 28, 2025

Regular Council Meeting 7:00 pm

This meeting will be held in Council Chambers. Attendance at this meeting is also available through Zoom web or teleconferencing (see below for instructions).

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Acknowledgement of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Traditional Territory**
- 3. Adoption of Agenda**
- 4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**
- 5. Adoption of Minutes of Regular and Special Council Meetings**
 - a. May 14, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes
- 6. Proclamations**
- 7. Delegations**
 - a. Delegation – Julie Bauer re Composting Concern
- 8. Public Hearings and Public Input Sessions**
- 9. Old Business**
 - a. Review of RCMP Performance Plan
 - b. 2025 Interim Regional Waste Management Agreement
- 10. New Business**
 - a. Accounts Payable to May 28, 2025
 - b. RTC – Banners for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) - Sept 30, 2025
 - c. Donated Refundables
 - i. RTC – Options for sustaining free store volunteers
 - ii. Amended Donation of Refundable Items Policy
 - d. RTC – Skate Park Attendant
 - e. Landfill access
 - i. RTC – After hours access for high volume users
 - ii. Draft Access Policy/Contract
- 11. Bylaws – Reports, Readings and Adoption**
- 12. Correspondence**
 - a. Letter – Request to fly Progress Pride Flag
 - b. Letter – Request to recognize Indigenous Survivors / National Blanket Ceremony Day
 - c. Letter – Installation of pedestrian crossing at Da Ku
- 13. Council Reports and Notice of Motions**
- 14. Questions from the Public**
- 15. Motion to Close Meeting to the Public**
- 16. Adjournment**

The next Regular Council Meeting will take place at 7:00 pm on June 11th in Council Chambers and via Zoom.

*The Village of Haines Junction respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on the
Traditional Territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8676347100>

Meeting ID: 867 634 7100

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Dial by your location

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8676347100>

Please call the Village Office (634-7100) during regular office hours for assistance in joining via zoom.



Village of Haines Junction Delegation Request

As per s. 15. of Bylaw 352-19, Council Procedural Bylaw

- 15.1. Any person or delegations wishing to appear before council or committee must give notice prior to 11:00 am on the second last business day prior to the meeting.
- 15.2. Persons or delegations are requested to provide any information materials by the second last business day so that the documents may be included in the Agenda Package.
- 15.3. Persons or delegations are required to provide their name, address, contact information and reason for wishing to appear before council or committee.
- 15.4. Persons or delegations addressing council or committee are required to state their names, addresses, and the purpose of their presentation.
- 15.5. Persons or delegations will be given five (5) minutes with which to make their presentation.
- 15.6. Council or committee may agree by vote to extend the time available for a presentation if the persons or delegations has given advance notice to the Chief Administrative Officer or designate.
- 15.7. Council will only hear up to a maximum of three delegations at one meeting.
- 15.8. If a Member asks the delegation a question of clarification, the delegation may answer the question.
- 15.9. A general discussion or dialogue shall not take place unless Council adopts a resolution to suspend the rules.

Requested Council Meeting Date: _____

Individual, Group or Association: _____

Representative(s) of the Above: _____

Main Spokesperson: _____

Topic(s): _____

Written Materials Submitted (if applicable): _____

Projector or Other Electronic Support Required: _____

Request Made By: _____ Date: _____

22 May 2025 Compost Concern Letter

Dear Mayor and Council.

This letter to council is a follow-up to my and many members of the community ongoing concerns about the ability to compost. Composting was a main target during public consultations at the beginning of this year.

Our municipality still does not have a compost unit and does not know when one will arrive? There are ongoing discussions with YTG on the concern but I believe there are things that can be happening in preparation. We need to know if one is readily available or if needs to be ordered?

We have had successful results with the recent focus group (Free Store and Landfill Community Concerns Advisory Group) on the operation of the free store. I think the same or similar group should be organized for the compost issue.

Once the unit arrives there is the need for public education and coordination with large compost producers like the school, restaurants, parks Canada.....

Celebration of July 1st is an event sponsored by the municipality. As we are unlikely to be able to compost lets encourage and advertise for people to [bring their potlatch bag](#) A suggestion for future events as well.

Julie Bauer

Attached

1. Prior letter for June 2024
 2. 2014 Report from Transform Compost Systems
- Both this letter and report have tidbits to read.

June 5, 2024 Concerns re: composting and landfill

Dear Mayor and Council,

I have been a person interested in composting and have done so for many years. I have seen attempts by councils to encourage composting and am happy to see the uptake of the kitchen units by the community. There is material such as pizza boxes, meat waste, yard waste...that needs a larger container and I believe one is coming for the village. I have mentioned to council members that attend the AYC to get YTG to have a shredder that can rotate between the rural communities. Maybe this is being considered? With our landfill becoming a regional waste facility we need to consider the extra load from other communities. I am writing this letter but know I have support of other community members.

I would like to mention a few concerns when our landfill becomes gated.

1. To encourage the community to recycle and compost I would recommend that clear plastic bags be used. Easy to see if the bag has compostable material or recyclable material inside and maybe an additional fee should be applied if that material is in the bag. What about the garbage coming from other communities, how will this issue be handled? Likely that the bags will have to be provided by the village until people get the hang of it. Will need to get the big garbage producers on board ie Parks Canada, restaurants.....
2. EDUCATION much needed.
3. Need to look at the bags used for composting, not all are compostable and some are called biodegradable (small bits of plastic). I believe Whitehorse has already identified specific bags? Maybe the Village needs to provide these as well for a short period. Ideally composting without the bags is best.
4. Need to work with individuals and groups. There is an active "green team" at the school for many years. There is a composting unit at the school but likely cannot handle all the material.
5. Look at our convention center. There is a green container for composting located in the kitchen and bathrooms. It usually has a black plastic bag! In the bathroom it is in a corner away from the paper towels and usually the towels are thrown in the container below the towels. Needs to be relocated. We have many groups use the convention center and hardly ever see the compost containers used properly. Need to make it easy for people.
6. FACILITY RENTAL AGREEMENT. Need to add to this agreement the need to compost, not bring Styrofoam, and use facility dishes. If bringing disposable dishes/utensils have to be compostable, not plastic. Need to recycle. Perhaps an extra fee? Perhaps get a list of available compostable material that is available in Whitehorse that can be provided with the agreement? Or a fee and appropriate bag provided. Often caterers come with groups and there should be a clause for them to be informed of above.
7. There are many events that take place in the outside environment. At one time I saw a trailer that was available in Whitehorse that had containers for garbage, recycle and compost. I believe the village already has trailers for storage of cardboard. Make it the organizers responsibility to pick up and drop off the trailer or a set fee?
8. Our village has a great pickup of recyclables at community members driveways! Perhaps we could look at pickup for compost? Of course there is consideration of wildlife and bears in the community so that may make it difficult. Maybe another option?
9. Have all caterers that operate in the facility informed of the need to compost and recycle. No Styrofoam. No plastic (not sure if we will be able to recycle #1-7 soon?)
10. Have a clause put in the janitorial contract for proper use of compost bags. This would inform different companies when contractor changes.
11. One concern I have is the storage of tin cans on the ground. To make the effort to wash and then have these are stored inappropriately. I am sure many in the community are not aware of this practice. I have been transporting my tin to Whitehorse.



Transform Compost Systems

turning waste into an opportunity

Organic Waste Options – Haines Junction, Yukon

October 18, 2014

Dr. John Paul of Transform Compost Systems was requested by Municipality of Haines Junction review the options for recycling and composting organic waste locally, or whether it should be transported to Whitehorse for composting at the Whitehorse Compost Facility.

The request was initiated because of the Municipality of Haines Junction's interest to be environmentally and economically sustainable with their waste management process, and because there is an opportunity to become a regional waste management and recycling facility.

Dr. Paul was asked to provide an analysis of the organic waste options for Haines Junction and is qualified to do so because of his 20+ years of experience in composting, his experience in coauthoring the Compost Facility Operator Manual, his experience in teaching the compost facility operators training course, his experience with preparing operations plans for the BC Ministry of the Environment, and his experience with reviewing other composting facilities throughout North America.

This report provides an analysis and recommendations for managing the organic waste from Haines Junction, as well as that of surrounding communities.

John Paul's Scope of Work

The following scope of work was agreed upon:

1. Conduct an analysis of the potential to separate and compost organic waste from the community of Haines Junction, and potentially from surrounding communities.
2. Provide recommendations for local composting of organic waste

Site Visit

I, Dr. John Paul of Transform Compost Systems visited Haines Junction on October 8 and 9, 2014. Councilor Dave Weir had organized meetings with Municipality of Haines Junction staff and council, landfill and recycling staff, and community members who were interested in gardening and composting.

The following meetings were organized by Dave Weir to allow the consultant, John Paul to understand more of the community, its history, understanding of the organic waste management opportunities, and its vision:

1. Meeting with Dave Weir, Dave Heatherly (public works foreman) and Keir Gervais 9:00 AM, Oct 8
2. Informal meetings with Brent Behm and Ellen Stutz, Haines Junction staff, at the Haines Junction Landfill/Recycling Center 10:30 AM, Oct 8
3. Meeting with Terry Holloway - Champagne Aishihik First Nation 1:00 PM, Oct 8
4. Meeting with local residents interested in gardening and composting 3:30 PM, Oct 8
5. Meeting with Municipality of Haines Junction Council 6:00 PM, Oct 8

6. Meeting with St Elias Community School Principle, Maggie Mann 9:15 AM, Oct 9
7. Meeting with Cathy McKinnon, recycling contractor 10:45 AM, Oct 9
8. Meeting with Miles Morton, HJEDC 1:00 PM, Oct 9

In addition to the discussions and visits, the following documents were reviewed:

1. Haines Junction Solid Waste Management Facility Solid Waste Management Plan 2013-2023 Revision 2 (08/21/2014), and
2. Request for Proposals – Regional Solid Waste Planning, Southwest Yukon, Oct 3, 2014.

Key Observations from Meetings

The various meetings along with the notes are found in Appendix A. Some summary points from the meetings include:

1. Haines Junction residents are proud of their community and would like to see local community initiatives
2. There is keen interest in separating organic waste from the landfill from many in the community
3. There is a long history of composting and recycling initiatives in Haines Junction
4. The local landfill is an asset that needs to be well managed to create long term opportunities for the community of Haines Junction
5. The waste management and recycling center staff are eager to learn and understand more about the composting process
6. It is accepted that a certain percentage of persons in the community are not motivated to separate recyclables and may not be interested in separating compostable material
7. There is a real and recognized need that the local soils require compost to improve local food production
8. There is a good understanding of compost quality, in part because of the compost produced in Whitehorse
9. The brush at the Haines Junction landfill should be ground and utilized rather than burned
10. The First Nations communities recognize the importance of recycling and composting, and wish to work together with Haines Junction on initiatives going forward
11. The quantity of organic waste produced in Haines Junction is relatively small, and it may be a challenge to keep it free of non-compostable material
12. The cold during the winter months will be a challenge for year round composting for the small quantities produced in the community
13. There was interest in doing some comparative organics collection pilot tests, that include weekly curbside collection in one area of the community, and a collection bin located in a lighted area in another part of the community

Key Applicable Observations from the Solid Waste Management Plan and Request for Proposals

1. The life expectancy of the Haines Junction landfill has not been clearly defined
2. The landfill has an excellent clay barrier that prevents groundwater contamination
3. The climate in the region suggests that there is no excess moisture concern with the landfill
4. There are opportunities for more efficient landfilling, by more efficient compacting of the domestic waste, and by grinding construction material and using it as landfill cover
5. All material should be dropped off at the front of the landfill to allow better sorting of material
6. There is excellent bear fencing around the landfill that would minimize the risk of wildlife attracted to the composting material
7. There is adequate space for a small composting operation at the landfill
8. The Haines Junction Landfill as a regional landfill may increase volumes of material entering the landfill, but also creates opportunities for more efficiency through grinding, compacting, sorting and separation.

Recommendations for Organic Waste Management in Haines Junction

1. The quantity of organic waste produced from households and businesses in Haines Junction is not enough to sustain a year-round operation such as in Whitehorse
2. The brush that is collected at the landfill should be shredded for potential use as bulking agent to be blended with food waste, composted on its own for a mulch product, or used for animal bedding.
3. A multipurpose slow speed shredder that can grind brush may also be used for grinding construction material or other waste products that will help with more efficient use of the landfill.
4. There is interest in local and decentralized solutions such as the freezer composter (<http://blhomecomposting.wordpress.com/>). Plans for freezer conversions are available at: <http://hotdamncomposter.wordpress.com/> . An idea such as the freezer composter has a number of benefits:
 - a. It utilizes appliances that are being discarded in the landfill
 - b. It provides insulation to allow composting to continue even with smaller batches in cold climates
 - c. It is wildlife proof

Some further modifications may have to be made for using a freezer composter in colder climates, such as reducing the amount of cold air entering the freezer, and potentially adding a heat source such as a heating pad to ensure temperatures high enough for potential pathogen and weed seed kill.

5. Organic waste delivered to the landfill can be stored during the winter months, then composted more intensively during the summer months. This would entail a longer composting process, but does not require as much infrastructure or operations costs.
6. An aerated windrow composting process during the summer months would achieve higher temperatures required to destroy potential pathogens, kill weed seeds and noxious weeds. This can be simply achieved using a 4" diameter pipe with ¼" holes at 12" intervals, a small ¼ or ½ hp centrifugal blower, and a timer. The pipe will be pulled out and the windrow mixed at approximately 4 week

intervals to ensure that the material on the edges will also undergo the heating process.

7. There will be a need for some water supplied for a composting process, as it will tend to dry out in the summer months.
8. The composting facility can be located on the landfill, as the clay base at the site already has low permeability. The pad should be sloped towards a leachate collection area to allow collection of excess moisture or precipitation.
9. If the Haines Junction Waste Management facility will be used as a regional facility, there is opportunity for increased organics collection. In case any of this material contains excessive amounts of non-compostable material, there is the option of composting this material and using it for landfill cover – as suggested in the Solid Waste Management Plan.
10. A seasonal composting facility at the Haines Junction landfill may then include an aerated windrow of clean organic material to produce compost that can be used locally, and a windrow of organic waste that can be composted to produce landfill cover.
11. One further option in a regional facility is to develop a material recovery facility, where the garbage bags are opened and the material sorted to remove recyclables and organic material. This organic material will contain too much non-compostable material to be used to supply compost to the community, but it can be used as landfill cover. This may be one area for the consultant to explore.

Summary

The community enthusiasm, need for compost for the soil, and the ability to create it simply leads towards a local composting solution. This can be as simple as an aerated windrow facility operating during the summer months. If this material is not suitable for community compost, it can always be used as landfill cover. A composting solution may also include smaller scale community composters such as the freezer composter. Organic waste collection strategies can be determined by piloting a curbside organics collection program, or a community drop off bin in a prominent location. The brush currently dropped off at the landfill should be chipped and used for composting, either as a bulking agent for the food waste, or composted on its own.

A regional solution may allow additional organic material to be added to the composting process, however, there may be increased risk of non-compostable material in the organic waste. The organic waste containing non-compostable material can still be composted, with the compost being used for landfill cover rather than sold as compost to the community.

This report was prepared by John Paul, PhD, PAg.



The following meetings were organized by Haines Junction Councillor Dave Weir to allow the consultant, John Paul to understand more of the community, its history, understanding of the organic waste management opportunities, and its vision:

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Meeting with Dave Weir, Dave Heatherly and Keir Gervais, Oct 8, 2014 9:00 AM

The recycling program is currently operated by the village, with a contract provided to Cathy McKinnon to provide a curbside recyclable collection service from Haines Junction residents one day per week. Recyclables have been picked up at the curbside for at least 10 years.

The recycling program was previously operated by a non-profit society until approximately 2012.

All recyclables are owned by Haines Junction. The Yukon government pays the trucking for the transfer of recyclables to Raven Recycling in Whitehorse. There is no revenue to Haines Junction for the recyclables other than containers that are refundable which include most beverage containers.

Haines Junction employs one person who is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the recycling center.

The Haines Junction Landfill was previously open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with no supervision. Concern regarding liability for potentially hazardous material resulted in the landfill hours being restricted to a given number of hours 5 days per week. The landfill is currently supervised by an employee of Haines Junction. There is currently no cost to residents or non-residents for any type of



material. Haines Junction has the authority to restrict the type of materials that are deposited in the landfill.

The Haines Junction landfill currently services approximately 800 persons. There are approximately 400 persons within the municipality of Haines Junction, whose tax money is supporting the landfill operation.

Haines Junction council is currently drafting a bylaw allowing residents of Haines Junction the ability to deposit a defined amount of garbage to the landfill at no cost. A garbage drop-off fee is proposed for non-residents and residents who deposit material in excess of the defined amount.

There is currently no curbside garbage collection. Curbside garbage collection is not being considered at the present time.

The neighbouring Champagne Aishihik First Nation communities contribute approximately 30% of the volume of material being deposited at the landfill. They pay approximately \$ 13,000 of the \$ 130,000 annual landfill operations costs. This cost is derived based on relative property values.

The current landfill life is estimated to be approximately 30 years, under current operating conditions. The community recognizes that siting a new landfill will likely cost several million dollars. There are currently no funds being set aside for a new landfill. Haines Junction recognizes that the local landfill represents an important asset that has tangible value. All decisions regarding the landfill will be considered with this in mind.

There is an excellent bear fence around the landfill. There has been no bear activity either in or around the landfill, which suggests that although bears may be attracted by the smells, they know that the potential food is not available to them, hence they have no interest in the site.

The Yukon government is interested in working with Haines Junction on a regional landfill/transfer station/recycling/composting initiatives. Haines Junction is aware that although there may be financial compensation for using the Haines Junction land fill as a regional landfill, increased volume of landfill will decrease the life expectancy of the landfill. As a result, Haines Junction proposes an 80% diversion requirement for material coming to the landfill, if the landfill is to be used as a regional landfill.

Haines Junction is an excellent gardening community, with a number of local residents who understand the value of compost, and are excited to use a locally produced product.

The school is also interested in composting, and had some composting initiatives in past years.

Haines Junction has been considering a curbside compostable material pickup.

Dave Weir has initiated a waste watch week, to learn more about the various components of the garbage, including recyclables, compostables, garbage and potentially biohazard material. He noted community interest in composting, but observed hesitancy because of a lack of knowledge about what types of materials may be compostable. Compostable material recovery may reduce the tonnage of material going to landfill by about 40%.

Meeting with Brent and Ellen at the Haines Junction landfill/recycling center, October 8, 2014 at 10:30 AM

Ellen provided an excellent tour of the recycling center. She has been involved with the recycling center for more than 10 years.

The recycling center is well organized and is operating well. Ellen reports that she regularly assists recycling center users to sort their recyclables, and is very willing to help them understand how best to sort the recyclables, and what types of containers are refundable.

There is a relatively new series of enclosed recycling bins that allow easy access with both words and pictures for the type of material that may be sorted.

Ellen explained that she is not always fully occupied and has interest in being more involved with the compostable material. She also explained that she has no training in composting, but would love to learn more about it.

Ellen does assist Brent, the land fill supervisor, in directing clients to the domestic garbage and compostable material drop off areas, during breaks and if required because of volume of traffic.

Brent provided us with a tour of the domestic waste and compostable drop off areas, as well as a tour of the landfill.

Small quantities of domestic waste currently are deposited in a compactor, which Brent pointed out



Figure 1. Entrance to the Regional Waste Management Facility in Haines Junction



Figure 2. Recycling material drop off area at Haines Junction Waste Management Facility



Figure 3. Domestic garbage compactor at Haines Junction landfill

does not function very well as a compactor, as it only “compacts” when the container is almost full. Hence, domestic waste compaction is not as efficient as it could be. This was also noted in the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Household compostable material is deposited in another closed container in the receiving area at the landfill. It was obvious from looking in the container that there were plastic bags of various types and sizes, as well as some non-compostable material. Brent expressed interest in understanding more about the various types of plastics, and what types may be compostable vs biodegradable.

Brent showed us the two areas where brush is being deposited, and was concerned about the location of the brush piles and the potential of fire spreading to the area where the construction debris is deposited. The brush piles are currently burned on a regular basis. There was one incident where the winds shifted, resulting in a fire in the construction debris area, which required almost a week to manage.

At the present time, there is one brush pile near the construction debris drop off area, and a new brush pile area started in another location because of concerns about the first brush pile being too large.

Brent showed us where the compostable material from the compostable material container is dropped off in the landfill. This material is mixed and turned with a loader or excavator from time to time.

Brent expressed interest in learning more about the composting process so that he could manage the compostable material better.



Figure 4. Container for receiving compostable material



Figure 5. Looking inside the compostable material container



Figure 6. One of the two brush piles at the Haines Junction landfill

There is also an area where waste soil, or soil mixed with brush is being dumped. This material is sometimes used for the landfill cover, or can be made available for anyone who wishes to have some. Brent noted that a screener is required to sort this material better.

Brent showed us the active face of the construction material drop off area, and it was easy to observe that better landfill space utilization could occur with some grinding of this material before depositing in the landfill.

There was an area where carcasses were deposited and buried.

There was a separate metals drop off area where a metal recycling company on occasion recovers some of the metal. Appliances including fridges and freezers are located in a separate area. Most of the fridges and freezers still contain Freon. Brent expressed interest in obtaining certification or training to remove the Freon.

Tires are also collected on a regular basis.

Paints and other chemicals are deposited near the front of the landfill and stored in new drums for regular removal.

Brent expressed interest in learning more about the composting process, and suggested that he would have some interest in managing some of this in the landfill area.

I discussed the potential option of converting old freezers into freezer composters, and demonstrating one or more of them in operation in the recycling center. Both Ellen and Brent expressed interest. Brent suggested that he could do the conversion of the freezer into the composter, and both expressed interest in maintaining this process, and explaining or demonstrating it for others who may be interested in doing this in their own



Figure 7. Construction material drop off area



Figure 8. Appliance drop off area at the Haines Junction landfill



Figure 9. Freezer composter in Powell River showing designer Bert Baillie (from Lets Talk Trash website: <http://letstalktrashpr.com/category/compost/>)

location. Both Brent and Ellen expressed the need for training in composting.

Meeting with Terry Holloway – Champagne Aishihik First Nation 1:00 PM October 8, 2014.

Terry expressed interest in participating with Haines Junction in the composting program. He described how there is a Greenhouse Initiative on their lands, which can both use compost, and would potentially be interested in making compost.

There are currently four communities in the Champagne Aishihik First Nation. One subdivision Takhini, is relatively close to Whitehorse, where all of the garbage and recyclables are delivered to the Whitehorse landfill. There is the community Canyon Creek, where there is one unsupervised landfill. Aishihik brings their garbage and recyclables to the Haines Junction landfill.

Champagne Aishihik First Nation has started a recycling program in the last year. He estimates that the community is still learning, and is enthusiastic about the program. He estimates that there is approximately a 75% participation rate.

Terry expects that the community will be eager to participate in a composting initiative, and is enthusiastic to learn what Haines Junction was doing.

Terry expressed interest in participating with Haines Junction in the planning process, and is willing to provide ideas and feedback.

Terry expressed interest in participating with Haines Junction in all aspects of solid waste planning, as they recognize that Champagne Aishihik First Nation is a significant contributor to the local landfill, and will also be affected if the land fill capacity is reached.

Terry mentioned the Greenhouse Project, which was an initiative of the Haines Junction Employment Development Society, where there may be interest in both composting and using the compost.

Meeting with local gardeners 3:30 PM October 8, 2014

Present: Kari Johnson, Judy Unrau, Karina Howard, Wenda Lythgoe, Julie Bauer, Meta Williams, Heiko Hahnsen, Jolene Billwiller, and Percy Allen.

Each person introduced themselves and identified specific interests. Most of the gardeners were familiar with the composting process, and are actively composting at home. Most of the participants knew about the Whitehorse composting program, and appreciated the excellent quality compost being produced there.



Figure 10. Champagne Aishihik First Nations community is located between Haines Junction and the Haines Junction Waste Management Facility

John Paul explained that buy-in from potential compost user is an essential component of a community composting initiative, and that a community composting program can be modified if required to meet specific community requirements.

In general, all participants were looking for compost that would be safe for growing food and vegetable crops. Most preferred compost that was certified organic or was approved for use with organic production. The compost produced at Whitehorse is approved for organic use.

All participants identified the importance of compost in maintaining a healthy soil. The soil in Haines Junction includes a thin layer of organic debris over lying clay soil. The debris layer is acidic in part resulting from the spruce trees. Additional organic matter is required for optimal soil conditions and plant growth.

Participants were looking for a good growing medium because of the lack of available soil in the community.

The compost should have a nutrient analysis available with it so that potential users could better understand how to use the compost, for example if the compost can be used as a soil conditioner or a growing medium.

One participant noted the “burning” potential of a poultry manure based compost. John Paul explained the concept of electrical conductivity or soluble nutrients in compost, and how understanding this is important to know how to use the compost.

The compost should be free of weed seeds, including some invasive species such as foxtail. This means that temperatures in the composting process should be high enough to kill weeds.

The compost should be free of plastics and other non-compostable material. All participants understood that a small amount of small plastic bits was inevitable because of the nature of the material. Most participants understood that the compost produced in Whitehorse was of excellent quality, even though there was a small amount of small non-compostable bits in it.

The compost should be free of potential pathogens, which means that it must undergo an appropriate temperature kill process.

Questions were asked about herbicides or pesticides and if they could bio accumulate in the compost material. It is current

understanding that most pesticides undergo some degradation during a good composting process, but there are some chemicals currently registered in the US that do not degrade and have a negative impact



Figure 11. Compost produced from community food and yard waste recycling at the Whitehorse Compost Facility

on vegetable crops. Agricultural waste using imported straw or hay is more likely to have residues than locally produced food waste or vegetation.

John Paul explained that even though the source material going into the composting process is not organic, the resulting compost can still be approved for organic use because of the required temperatures that need to be achieved during the composting process.

Participants expressed a willingness to pay for a good compost material, because they need it anyways, and would otherwise have to purchase it from other sources.

Participants agreed that burning the brush pile is not a sustainable option – primarily because the wood waste is better recycled back to the soil.

There are three options for the ground brush material.

1. a carbon source to co-compost with foodwaste
2. a source of compost if further composted on its own, and
3. a material that can be used as mulch or animal bedding without being composted.

There was interest in using a lower quality material for landscaping type purposes. This material would still have to be clean, but would not necessarily have to meet the same quality standards.

The participants were asked about their thoughts regarding three potential composting options:

1. A centralized composting site in Haines Junction, which may potentially include compostable material from other communities
2. Collecting all of the material in Haines Junction, then bringing it to Whitehorse for composting.
3. A combination of options, which may include some smaller decentralized composting options, as well as a larger brush waste type composting process.

Participants agreed on a preference for local composting, as it would increase community pride, probably obtain a better local buy-in, and more likely be a cleaner product.

Participants would not be opposed to sending the organics to Whitehorse if it was concluded that an efficient and affective process could not be achieved in Haines Junction. A quality standard has already been achieved in Whitehorse.

Participants did not necessarily agree that there should be a curbside compostable material collection, however it would be important to have a good drop off location available outside of current landfill hours.

Participants recognized that curbside compost collection also has its challenges for two reasons:

1. It requires that compostable material may have to be stored at home for up to a week, which may result in odor and attraction of animals.
2. If for any reason, the compostable material is not collected on the collection day, there is also increased risk animal attraction.

Participants recognized that locating an organics drop off bin at the landfill may result in increased contamination because of its location and association with garbage.

One of the challenges during the summer months is the flies and odor associated with the compostable material collection bin at the landfill.

Carcasses are a significant concern in Haines Junction. It was brought up that we need to be able to deal with them appropriately.

The gardeners are interested and willing to participate with Haines Junction on education and communication about the importance of composting and producing quality compost.

Participants were not as concerned about the type of composting technology utilized, as long as it worked. John Paul explained one option similar to the program at Yellowknife, where the organic material is stored and accumulated during the winter months, and actively composted during the 4-5 available months during the summer. The time required to compost is slightly longer, up to two years, but the technology and infrastructure requirements are low.



Figure 12. Compostable material collection windrow during the winter in Yellowknife, NWT

Meeting with Council Oct 8, 2014 6:00 PM,

Mayor Mike Crawshay, Councillors Angie Charlebois, Thomas Eckervogt, Bruce Tomlin and Dave Weir.

Staff members Keir Gervais and Dave Heatherly were also present.

John Paul explained some of the results of the discussions of the day.

Council acknowledged various concerns about the compostable collection program to date, and reiterated that this is part of the learning process to make the right decisions moving forward.

Council appreciated the interest from the gardening community and their willingness to come on-board to help make this a successful program for the community.

Council explained how they are working more diligently to engage Champagne Aishihik First Nation in the planning and communication process, and will be including them in the next phases, including both composting and potential regionalization.

Council was interested in the potential option of using one machine for multiple purposes, such as a slow speed shredder that could be used for wood, construction debris, and perhaps other material such as tires etc. This may be an important strategy or options in discussions with Yukon government regarding regionalization.

Council generally agreed that the composting process need not be high technology – a simple seasonal process that produces quality compost is fine.

Council agreed that smaller decentralized composting options such as the freezer composter idea may be a good solution that supports the concept of community.

The potential contamination risks associated with a free compostable material drop off at the land fill gates was acknowledged, with the idea that perhaps this container can be in a more centralized and lighted location, which then may also be augmented with a garden, or a community gathering spot.

Meeting with Maggie Mann, St Elias Community School principle, 9:15 AM, October 9, 2014

The meeting was initiated in part because the school came up in conversation a number of times in previous meetings in relation to:

1. The school already separates compostable material
2. Students could be involved in some way in the science of composting and growing food
3. Perhaps there could be a composter at the school
4. Students have a significant influence in the home

Maggie suggested that it would be simpler to transport the students to the landfill/recycling center if there were some ongoing composting activities there, rather than composting at the school.

Individual teachers have specific curriculum requirements and the science of composting, community service and community participation may fit in well with some of the ongoing programs. A composting program provides opportunity for some hands-on science learning.



Figure 13. St. Elias Community School, Haines Junction

There are already some great educational resources available regarding how composting can fit into a science curriculum.

Meeting with Cathy McKinnon, Recyclable pickup contractor, 10:45 AM October 9, 2014

Cathy reflected on previous composting initiatives including a program that provided backyard composters and forks, and a worm composting initiative. The Boy Scouts sold llama manure for local gardeners.

Interest in recycling began in 1994 with a voluntary recycling society. A recyclables pickup service began in 2004 as part of a Challenge program that supported one employee for 3-4 years. Cathy has been operating the pickup service since then.

Currently approximately 60% of Haines Junction residents utilize the free recyclables pick up service. This percentage has been stable over the last years. Of the remaining 40% of the community, some bring the recyclables to the recycling center on their own, and some do not recycle.

The option of curbside recycling pickup, and the public drop-off provides residents with a choice, and also provides curbside pickup subscribers the opportunity to also drop off material if they have too much for the curbside recycling.

Cathy introduces the recycling program to new residents, and provides them with a recycling bin if they are interested.

With the recycling program, curbside pickup allows opportunity to provide education on what can be included in the program.

We discussed the potential of curbside collection of compost. Previously discussed concerns included the importance of the compostable material being collected on time, the need to store compostable material for a week, and the risk of animal attraction.

Additional considerations with a curbside recycling program include the risk of material freezing in the bins, who provides the bins, and who is responsible for cleaning the bins. Curbside compostable material pickup is also different than recycling material pickup in that the bins can be almost empty, or they can be full and heavy, which will not be easy to anticipate when observing the bin.

The positive aspects for curbside collection of compostable waste is:

1. It is easier to catch the items that should not be composted
2. It allows a better education process for the type of material that can be included, and
3. Curbside collection provides more opportunity for accountability

Cathy emphasized the importance of education, and a clear and consistent message regarding the type of material that can be composted. It was understood and accepted that the list of material that can be composted may be slightly different than the list recommended for backyard composting. In particular, bones, meat and dairy products are not recommended for backyard composting, but may be acceptable in a community composting program.

Education across the table is one of the best ways to achieve program success.

We discussed an option of collecting full containers, bringing them to the composting center, emptying them and cleaning them. While that may reduce the “yuck” factor in the collection process, it adds a significant amount of time and work. It would be simpler and less costly if households used their own container – either a standard container purchased or provided by the community, and cleaned it and maintained it themselves.

We agreed that it would be advantageous to run a pilot program for 3-6 months in two of the more high density neighbourhoods. One neighbourhood would be provided with a bin, and have weekly curbside compostable pickup service. The other neighbourhood would have a single community drop off bin that would be accessible at any time.

This pilot program would provide valuable information on the type and amount of material collected, the potential for freezing or animal attraction concerns, and the ease or cost of the service. Meanwhile, other community residents who are passionate about separating compostable material would also have access to the one community collection container in another neighbourhood.

Meeting with Miles Morton, Haynes Junction Employment Development Society, 1:00 PM October 9, 2014

Miles has a long history with composting in the north, including participation in the Whitehorse composting program in 1991-1993 (Recycling Organics Together Society- ROTS). This program was a demonstration compost site in order to show how to divert material from the landfill. A new landfill cell was costing \$ 30,000 to \$ 40,000 which meant that any landfill diversion decreased overall land filling costs.

The Whitehorse program had good buy-in from local restaurants. The restaurants were provided with 20 L buckets that were regularly cleaned and exchanged. It was important to work with the restaurants to optimize the program for each restaurant. The material was stored during the winter, then windrow composted during the summer, where the windrows were turned once weekly.

The one significant observation resulting from the early organics collection and composting program in Whitehorse was the high soluble salt content of the finished compost – which is more common with compost that contains food waste. John explained that this soluble salt is not necessarily sodium or chloride, but includes all soluble plant nutrients including potassium, sulphate, magnesium, calcium etc.

Miles stressed the importance of providing organic matter to the soils in the north, where there is very little topsoil.

Miles noted that provision of water for the composting process is very important, as the compost dried very quickly during the summer months. This was important as there is currently no water source at the landfill – water would have to be transported.

Miles noted other sources of wood waste including a waste pile at an old sawmill along the Alaska Highway near Haines Junction, and a sawmill in Canyon.

Miles discussed the greenhouse program that the Haines Junction Employment Development Society is operating on Champagne Aishihik First Nation's land. Production interest has shifted from growing ornamental plants to growing vegetables. This group may be interested in participating in the composting process, as well as being a potential user of compost.

We agreed that any activities in Haines Junction would be shared and communicated with Champagne Aishihik First Nations, so that both communities could benefit from a new program.

Miles suggested that there may be money available in the Yukon Agriculture Branch for agricultural related initiatives.

Annual Performance Planning

Each Year the RCMP develops an annual performance plan system in consultation with our community partners, division priorities and national priorities. During our fiscal year period of April 2024-April 2025 we have continued to focus on the following initiatives;

- 1) Communicate effectively - Build and maintain positive relations with our partners.

Objectives under this initiative consisted of:

- a) Partner agency meetings both formal and informal with the Village of Haines Junction, Champagne-Aishihik First Nations, Kluane First Nation, Interagency, Family and Children Services, Conservation, EMR, Forestry, Parks Canada, CBSA and other important community partners;
- b) Attending community events in Haines Junction and surrounding communities including Kluckshu, Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay;
- c) Regular patrols to provide a policing presence to all remote communities within our detachment area including: Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay, Champagne, Canyon, Kluckshu and the Haines Highway to Pleasant Camp.

- 2) Prevent and reduce the incidents of crime involving youth through strengthening and maintaining youth relationships.

Objectives under this initiative consisted of:

- a) Maintain or increase police involvement with youth by attending, participating or coaching events and through positive interactions with youth in an informal setting. Some examples over the past years are RCMP involvement in coaching youth hockey, school visits in Haines Junction and Destruction Bay, participating in youth events such as the St. Elias School Bison Hunt and the Top Cop reading program at Destruction Bay.

3) Enhance Road Safety – Speeding and Impaired Driving.

Objectives under this initiative consisted of:

- a) Conducting highway patrol and enforcement of speeding violations within our detachment area;
- b) Conducting checkstops on a regular basis;
- c) A focused effort on impaired driving offences.

Moving into 2025-2026, we are planning to continue building on the identified initiatives for the new fiscal year. For our new fiscal year I would like to incorporate some changes to our plan to reflect the initiatives identified in the KFN letter of expectation, which is currently being developed.

Consultation with community leadership is part of the development process. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding our annual performance planning initiatives, please feel free to contact me directly by phone, email or stop by the detachment any time prior to the end of April.

Thank you,

Cpl. Shannon Stelter
Haines Junction RCMP



Village of Haines Junction Report to Council

May 28th , 2025

☒ Council Decision
☐ Council Direction
☐ Council Information
☐ Closed Meeting

RE: Interim Regionalization Agreement 2025

Recommendation

Council, take into consideration this report and provide staff with direction to sign the 2025 Interim Regionalization Agreement.

Background

The Village signed the 2024 Interim Regionalization Agreement in April 2024. This interim agreement provides the Village with funding for regional users of the solid waste facility to partially offset the costs of staffing the gatehouse attendant position and the implementation of tipping fees.

10-Apr-24	#96-24 Interim Regionalization Agreement	THAT Council direct Administration to begin required work on the required Policies and Bylaws to update landfill operations in accordance with the Interim Regionalization Agreement and that the Interim Regionalization Agreement be signed.
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Current Status

YG has not provided the Village with a lease for the solid waste facility site. The full regionalization agreement can not be completed until a lease is in place. The 2025 interim agreement is intended to allow YG more time to transfer the land and prepare the lease agreement.

Discussion/Analysis

The 2025 Interim Regionalization Agreement is the same as the 2024 Agreement, it simply extends the time frame.

Asset Management Impact

This topic has been covered in detail in past report to Council as well as the Transition Binder.

Alternatives Considered

While Council could elect to not sign the agreement, the primary effect would be to eliminate the \$111,800 annual payment from YG, causing increased difficulty in meeting the mandate of the Waste Management and Cost Recovery Bylaw.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities

This agreement aligns with Council's priority to provide financially sustainable services through clearly defined policy.

Next Steps

When YG has completed the full regionalization agreement, each community and the AYC will review to ensure that any changes or additions are in keeping with the intention of the agreement.

Draft Resolution

That Council Direct staff to sign the Interim Regionalization agreement for 2025.

Prepared by

David Fairbank
Chief Administrative Officer

Interim Regional Waste Management Facility Agreement

This Interim Agreement made in the Yukon Territory

Between

THE VILLAGE OF HAINES JUNCTION,
as represented by its Chief Administrative Officer
("Haines Junction")

and

GOVERNMENT OF YUKON,
as represented by the Director of Operations and Programs, Community Services
("Yukon")

together with the above referred to as the "Parties"

PREAMBLE

The Yukon Government (YG) and the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) are working to modernize Yukon's management of solid waste in order to reduce risks, liabilities and cost to taxpayers as outlined in the 2016 AYC report Solid Waste Management: Vision for a Sustainable Model, and the 2018 Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste recommendations report.

Interim Regional Agreements are being struck to provide funding for municipalities to work on waste management and to ensure all residents within each regional boundary have access to a Regional Waste Management Facility. These interim agreements will be replaced by Regional Agreements once lease, liability and other operational standards are established at municipal facilities.

BACKGROUND

- A.** Haines Junction possesses a Waste Management Permit (#80-002) to operate a waste disposal facility (the “Facility”) and a special waste management facility granted under the *Environment Act* R.S.Y. 2002, c.76, the *Solid Waste Regulations* OIC 2000/011, and the *Special Waste Regulations*, O.I.C. 1995/047 (the “Permit”).
- B.** The Permit expires December 31, 2025.
- C.** Haines Junction operates a municipal landfill in accordance with the Permit on Yukon government land set aside for this purpose by Yukon at and as further described on the map attached as Schedule A (the “Regional Waste Management Facility”).
- D.** Yukon wishes to ensure use of the Regional Waste Management Facility by nearby unincorporated users within each Regional Boundary (see Schedule B).
- E.** The Parties are working together to regularize the use and occupation of the Regional Waste Management Facility by raising title to the land then leasing it (if not already titled) to Haines Junction and by making a final regional agreement with Haines Junction about their operating of the Regional Waste Management Facility and the provision of these municipal services to the region.
- F.** The Parties recognize that the process to subdivide the landfill site from the YG reserve area is a slow process. This interim agreement is intended as a bridge agreement to facilitate the flow of compensation funds from YG Community Services to Haines Junction.
- G.** The interim agreement will provide supportive funding for the municipality to facilitate the transition to a Regional Waste Management Facility.
- H.** For greater clarity the Parties are committed to and in the process of developing overarching regional solid waste management agreements which will include:
 - a.** Gates, staff, and tipping fees at all facilities.

- b. Lease agreement.
- c. Liability agreement reflecting an equal cost sharing of closure and post closure costs. (50% each)
- d. Financial compensation by YG to the municipalities for the acceptance of residential waste from regional residential users.
- e. YG assistance with environmental issues that may arise from the operation of a Solid Waste Management Facility.

AGREEMENT

Now therefore, the Parties agree as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1. In this Interim Agreement;

“Designated Materials” means those materials for which Yukon collects a point-of-sale or manufacturing fee in relation to waste disposal or recycling and as further defined under the *Environmental Act*, specifically the *Designated Materials Regulation* and the *Beverage Container Regulation*. These designated materials include tires, electronic waste, and beverage containers.

“Special Waste” has the same meaning as found in the *Environmental Act* and the *Special Waste Regulations*, and includes residential products accepted under Community Services’ Household Hazardous Waste Program.

“Tipping fees” means fees charged by the Regional Waste Management Facility to all facility users per unit, or per unit of volume or mass, for waste disposed of at the facility.

2. REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY OPERATIONS & PERMITTING

2.1. Tipping Fees

- 2.1.1. Haines Junction will work to develop a waste management bylaw that establishes sorting requirements and tipping fees at the Regional Waste Management Facility.
- 2.1.2. Haines Junction agrees that all residential users of the Regional Waste Management Facility will be charged the same tipping fees. Some variation from one municipality to the other is expected due to individual operation practices.

2.2. Safe operations

- 2.2.1. Haines Junction will carry out the operation and maintenance of the Regional Waste Management Facility safely, in compliance with all relevant legislative and regulatory requirements and with due care to ensure that it does not cause any injury.

2.3. Permits

- 2.3.1. Haines Junction is responsible for all permitting and license application requirements associated with the operation and maintenance of the Regional Waste Management Facility and will ensure compliance with relevant legislative requirements;
 - 2.3.1.1. its obligations as a proponent for any environmental assessments;
 - 2.3.1.2. renewal of the Permit; and
 - 2.3.1.3. its obligations under the Workers' Safety and Compensation Act S.Y. 2021, c.11.

2.4. Not a YG operation

- 2.4.1. Haines Junction acknowledges that it has sole responsibility for

the operation and maintenance of the Regional Waste Management Facility including controlling access to the site.

3. FUNDING

- 3.1. Yukon will provide a contribution \$111,800 (based on an average regional population of 583 plus 20% x \$200 adjusted by population change from 2023-2024 of -1% based on YBS Regional estimates for population outside the municipal boundary) to offset the costs associated with providing waste disposal services to residents outside of the municipality of Haines Junction as per the regional boundary identified in Schedule B and to assist with operation and maintenance costs of the Regional Waste Management Facility.
- 3.2. In the event that this Agreement is extended past December 31, 2025 the funding for will be adjusted by the population change from 2024-2025 based on Yukon Bureau of Statistics regional estimates for population outside the municipal boundary.
- 3.3. The payment will cover the period from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025 (12 months).
 - 3.3.1. This contribution will be paid in one payment within 60 days of signing the agreement.
 - 3.3.2. YG currently reimburses Municipalities for costs associated with the testing of monitoring wells installed in and around the landfill site. The practice will continue until a Regional Waste Management Facility Agreement has been reached. The parties will negotiate the final well monitoring arrangement and include as part of the Regional Waste Management Agreement.
- 3.4. Yukon will arrange and pay for the pick-up, transport from the Regional Waste Management Facility and processing or disposal of:
 - 3.4.1. any Designated Materials; and
 - 3.4.2. Non-commercial Special Waste.
- 3.5. The obligation of YG to make any payments to under this Interim

Agreement is subject to the following:

- 3.5.1. the Financial Administration Act (Yukon);
- 3.5.2. money being appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of this Interim Agreement; and
- 3.5.3. abiding by the terms and conditions of this Interim Agreement.

4. TERM

- 4.1. This Interim Agreement is in force from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, and may be extended annually upon agreement by both parties until such time as it is replaced by a Regional Waste Management Agreement.

The Parties have executed this Interim Agreement by their Duly Authorized Officials:

GOVERNMENT OF YUKON by the)	
Director of Community Operations:)	
)	
)	
_____)	
Michel Leger)	Date Signed
THE VILLAGE OF Haines Junction by)	
the Chief Administrative Officer:)	
)	
)	
_____)	
CAO)	Date Signed

April 6, 2025

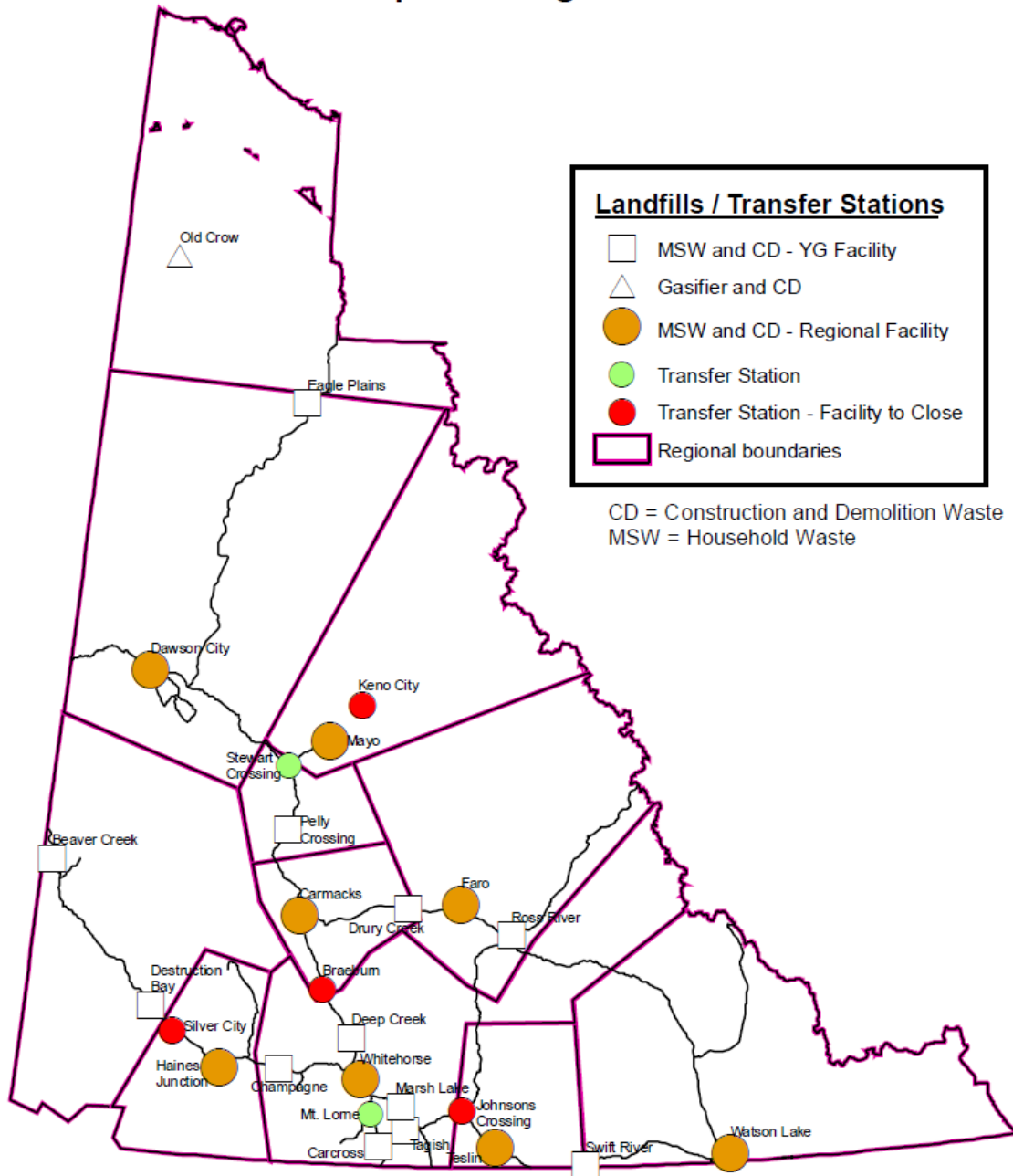
Schedule A

Map of the Location of the Solid Waste Management Facility



Schedule B

Yukon After Regionalization: Proposed Regional Boundaries and Sites to be Closed



Municipal Accounts Payable to May 28, 2025

<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>		<u>Department</u>	<u>Description</u>
Transfer	Payroll Account #4305418	\$ 34,320.07		Administration	Net Pay - Pay Period 11
		\$ 5,052.52		Administration	RRSP Contribution - Pay Period 11
		\$ 827.68	\$ 40,200.27	Administration	Union Dues May 2025
280532			\$ 500.00	Legislative	Tish Tomlin Scholarship
280533	Acklands - Grainger	\$ 1,157.98	\$ 1,157.98	Fire Department	Multi gas detector
280534	Allan Martinson		\$ 380.00	Public Works	Replace DEF pump on small Kenworth
280535	Atco Electric	\$ 594.99		Administration	Electricity: May 2025 billing
		\$ 4,471.30		Arena	Electricity: May 2025 billing
		\$ 594.98		Convention Centre	Electricity: May 2025 billing
		\$ 368.47		Fire Department	Electricity: May 2025 billing
		\$ 418.97		Landfill & Recycling	Electricity: May 2025 billing
		\$ 72.96		Pool	Electricity: May 2025 billing
		\$ 540.44		Public Works	Electricity: May 2025 billing
		\$ 3,766.56		Roads & Streets	Electricity: May 2025 billing
		\$ 10,223.02	\$ 21,051.69	Water & Sewer	Electricity: May 2025 billing
280536	BI Pure Water (Canada) Inc		\$ 2,889.59	Water & Sewer	Back wash touch screen
280537	Castle Rock Enterprises Ltd.		\$ 7,035.00	Landfill	Contaminated soil acceptance, trucking
280538	Chilkoot Equipment Ltd.		\$ 8,043.00	Capital/Landfill	Generator rent for gate house
280539	Cimco		\$ 670.95	Arena	Brine and glycol analysis
280540	Core Geoscience Services Inc.		\$ 5,922.07	Landfill	Oil spill services
280541	Darlene Sillery		\$ 60.00	Administration	Notary public for land transfer
280542	Ellen Stutz Petty - Cash	\$ 52.45		Landfill & Recycling	Stackable storage boxes (free store)
		\$ 473.65	\$ 526.10	Recycling Centre	Refundables paid out

* Denotes an item not directly funded by the Village

** Grant funded

Municipal Accounts Payable to May 28, 2025

280543	Ibex Valley Volunteer Fire Fighters Society	\$	1,085.00	Fire Department	Fire Department fit test and travel
280544	Jacob's Industries	\$	324.45	Fire Department	Hydrostatic test of high pressure cylinders
		\$	622.13	Water & Sewer	Co2
280545	Yukon Service Supply	\$	1,036.88	Water & Sewer	Sodium hypochlorite

Municipal Accounts Payable \$ **91,505.11**

Adopted on _____

Mayor_____ CAO _____

* Denotes an item not directly funded by the Village

** Grant funded



Village of Haines Junction Report to Council

May 28, 2025

☒ Council Decision
☒ Council Direction
☐ Council Information
☐ Closed Meeting

RE: Banners for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)

Recommendation

Council indicates their preferred banner design to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Every Child Matters/Orange Shirt Day) and direct staff to print and hang banners for the month of September.

Background

In the May 2024, prior Council requested staff explore, with CAFN, the hanging of banners along the highway to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which coincides with Every Child Matters / Orange Shirt Day. At that time, staff discussed the possibility of incorporating local youth artwork into the banner design with CAFN. CAFN commissioned a design from a CAFN artist for their shirts last year; however, time did not permit to incorporate this artwork into banners. CAFN indicated they would like to expand on their recognition of Every Child Matters by doing cross walks and a parking lot mural, among other activities. The Village expressed its interest in collaborating and supporting any initiatives organized by CAFN to recognize this important day.

Current Status

Staff have reached out to CAFN to see if banner artwork is something we can organize for the coming year, and to share that Mayor and Council are keen to hang banners along the highway for the month of September and support any initiatives that are coordinated by CAFN to recognize this important day.

Alternatives Considered

1. *Preferred (if possible) -- Banners with local artwork provided by CAFN
2. Plain orange banners with fingerpainted children's handprints
3. Any of the attached banner designs designed in-house with stock imagery

Draft Resolution

Staff are directed to print and hang [indicated preferred banner design] to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation for the month of September and to approve budget for the printing of 40 banners (estimated cost \$4,000).

Prepared by

Aynslie Ogden
Policy and Communications Manager

Possible Banner Designs

A.



B.



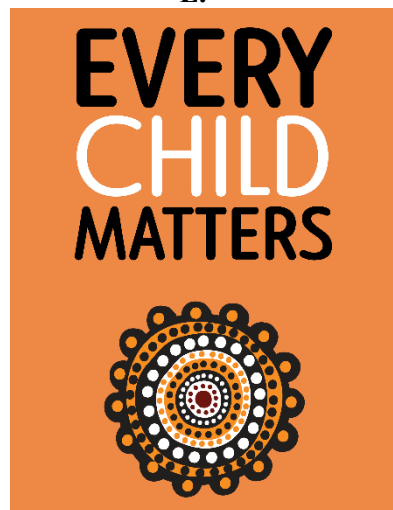
C.



D.



E.



F.





Village of Haines Junction Report to Council

May 28, 2025

☒ Council Decision
☒ Council Direction
☐ Council Information
☐ Closed Meeting

RE: Options for sustaining free store volunteers

Recommendation

Staff recommend:

- Reprofile the Donated Refundables Funds per the recommendation from the Free Store Advisory Committee (updated policy attached).
- Monitor the effectiveness of the approach recommended by the Free Store Advisory Committee in sustaining free store volunteers and consider other compensation options (e.g. as presented in this report) should volunteerism wane.
- Given the budget for volunteer honoraria is likely to exceed the amount of revenue from the donation of refundables, direct staff to prepare a report at the end of the fiscal year on total revenues from donations and total expenses for volunteer honoraria payments to inform additional budget requirements.
- Provide an option for the displaced beneficiaries of the reprofiled Donated Refundables Fund through the new Recreation, Arts, Culture and Environment funding program that Council is deliberating.

Background

Following a public engagement on tipping fees in January 2025, Council established a Free Store and Landfill Community Concerns Advisory Group to:

1. Advise Council on a plan for the re-opening of the free store and optimal/sustainable free store operations.
2. Provide recommendations for immediate work on the five most pressing identified community concerns in a (two-page max) workplan with milestones and deliverables for each of these topics. Council may accept any number of these work plans and will direct the working group to proceed with the approved work plans under an amended Terms of Reference.

Current Status

On May 14, 2025, Council approved recommendations from the Free Store and Landfill Community Concerns Advisory Group to allocate funds for \$40/shift honorariums for Free Store Volunteer staff (estimated cost of \$6,240/year). Staff were also directed to review the existing Donated Refundables Policy to allow for honorariums at the free store (Motion #158-25).

Discussion/Analysis

Policy Consideration: Honoraria amount

- An analysis of what a typical rate for honoraria in the Yukon for volunteer work was not conducted by the Advisory Group and did not inform the setting of the rate of \$40/shift (minimum of two hours, maximum of four and a half hours).
- Federal policy recommends federal agencies consider the following when determining an appropriate amount for an honoraria payment: the underlying costs of amounts paid under comparable situations and what is fair under the circumstances. An honoraria payment of \$40 seems fair for a 2 hour shift but is low and unlikely to sustain volunteerism for a 4.5 hour shift, should longer shifts be required for effective operations (minimum wage in Yukon is \$17.59/hour).
- The annual budget for honoraria was estimated to be \$6,250 and was based on one the staffing of one volunteer per shift. In the opening weekends, two or three volunteers staffed the free store per shift. While this is likely attributable to a greater workload in the opening weekends, if this volunteer capacity is needed on an ongoing basis, the annual budget requirements will be much higher than estimated.

Policy Consideration: Size of Donated Refundables Fund

- The amount of refundables donated varies from year to year, affecting the amount of funds available for re-distribution.
- The rationale for the Advisory Group's recommendation to redirect funds from community groups to free store volunteers is that more people will donate their refundables to support the free store.
- The Village should expect to fund honoraria regardless of the redirection of donated refundable funds, given the fluctuation seen from year to year with donations.

Year	Amount of Donations Received
2024	\$5,275.35
2023	\$6,332.60
2022	\$4,927.15
2021	\$3,476.90
2020	\$1,522.40

Policy Consideration: Displaced beneficiaries of the Donated Refundables fund

- The following community groups have benefitted (e.g. received funding) from the Donated Refundables fund in recent years:
 - The Haines Junction Parent Grad Society
 - Junction Arts and Music
 - Creative Junction
 - The Haines Junction Football Club
 - Romp and Run
 - The St. Elias Ski Club
 - Augusto

- Treble Makers
- SECS Graduation Class
- Changing the terms and conditions of the Donated Refundables Fund to direct all donated funds to free store volunteer honoraria will impact other community groups.
- These groups can apply to the Community Lotteries program funds that are administered by the Village; however, these funds are allocated on a more restricted basis -- some activities that the Village can support with Donated Refundables grants cannot be supported with Lotteries grants.

Policy Consideration: Previous Council positions on redirecting donated refundables funds

- Requests have been made of Council to redirect donated refundables funds on several occasions (e.g. December 23, 2024, October 2023, January 12, 2022, etc.)
- Council decided in each case to not change the donated refundables policy to redirect funds to honoraria for free store volunteers.

Policy Consideration: New Recreation, Arts, Culture and Environment funding program

- Council is exploring a new Recreation, Arts, Culture and Environment funding program.
- Such a program would likely overlap with what is currently funded under the Donated Refundables fund and could be an alternative funding source for community groups that would be displaced by a reprofiling of this funding.

Policy Consideration: Is an honorarium the most suitable payment mechanism?

- An honoraria is a voluntary payment for services to an individual who is not a government employee, and to whom payments are not legally or traditionally required. They are a mechanism to show appreciation, and not to procure services.
- ¹The federal government is clear that honoraria are not to be an entitlement (there is no expectation of payment in exchange for the service rendered) and they are not recurring payments to the same individual. Federal policy recommends that federal agencies only use honoraria in exceptional or urgent circumstances and does not allow honoraria to be used as a mechanism to deliver a program or to make recurring payments. When the purpose of a transaction is to pay for services, federal agencies are to issue a contract (e.g. employment contract, services contract, transfer payment agreement). Federal agencies are also advised that honorarium payments should always be gratuitous and the decision to provide an honorarium should have no influence on the decision of the individual to participate or volunteer their time.
- Yukon government honoraria policies primarily focus on providing compensation for individuals serving on government boards, committees and tribunals. These policies recognize time and effort contributed by volunteers and are typically paid per meeting attended or for preparation time, with rates varying based on roles and responsibilities.
- ²In a January 2022 request to Council for the redirection of Donated Refundables funds to volunteers, Yukon EMS was cited as an example of how payment is made to volunteers.

¹ <https://www.tbs-sct.canada.ca/pol/doc-eng.aspx?id=32800§ion=html>

² <https://yukon.ca/en/employment/find-volunteer-opportunity/join-yukon-emergency-medical-services-team>

EMS are part-time employees of the government who receive an hourly honoraria when they are on-call.

- The Village of Haines Junction has provided honoraria to members of the Board of Variance and the Trail Committee at a rate of \$100/meeting (which is below the rates provided to members of Yukon Boards and Committees).

Asset Management Impact

Council is seeking a path towards optimal/sustainable free store operations. Traditionally, the free store was operated by volunteers and experience has shown that the enthusiasm of volunteers to consistently supply a service often wanes – emphasizing the importance of providing compensation to ensure consistent and sustainable service provision.

Alternatives Considered

1. Reprofile the Donated Refundables Funds to support honoraria for free store volunteers
 - This option was recommended by the Advisory Group.
 - The amount of donations is unlikely to cover honoraria.
 - The recommended rate for honoraria is low and may not sustain volunteerism at the level that is required for sustainable operations.
 - Honoraria are not the best mechanism for recurring payments.
 - Community groups displaced by the reprofiling of these funds could be supported through the new Recreation, Arts, Culture and Environment funding program that Council is considering.
2. Allocate funds in the budget to support honoraria for free store volunteers
 - This option is likely to be required even if the donated refundables funds are reprofiled, or if more than one volunteer is required per shift.
3. Establish part-time employment contract(s)
 - This is a more appropriate mechanism for recurring payments.
 - A part-time employment contract could be established for a single employee who could oversee the operations of the free store and coordinate the schedule of volunteers
 - Part-time, timesheet-driven employment contracts could also be established for all of the volunteers who contribute to the free store.
4. Provide annual contribution funds to a non-profit community group to operate the facility
 - A request for proposals could be issued to see if there are any community groups interested in operating the facility for a fixed contribution amount.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities

Finding a sustainable solution to operating the free store falls within Council's goal to define service levels that are both effective and financially sustainable.

Draft Resolution

THAT

- The revised Donated Refundables Funds Policy, amended per the recommendations of the Free Store and Landfill Community Concerns Advisory Group, is approved and adopted on May 28, 2025.
- Staff are directed to bring forward compensation options presented in this report for Council's consideration should volunteerism wane.
- Staff are directed to prepare a report at the end of the fiscal year on total revenues from donations and total expenses for volunteer honoraria payments to inform additional budget requirements.
- Staff will ensure that criteria of the old Donated Refundables Fund are incorporated into the draft of the new Recreation, Arts, Culture and Environment funding program that Council is deliberating to ensure community groups that used to receive funds from the Donated Refundables program will be eligible for support under the new program..

Prepared by

Aynslie Ogden
Policy and Communications Manager



VILLAGE OF HAINES JUNCTION

Donation of Refundable Items Policy

Policy #44-25

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Village of Haines Junction Donation of Refundable Items Policy is to define the process for distributing the refund money collected from the donation of refundable items (“refundables”) at the Haines Junction Recycle Centre.

2. Policy Statement

The Policy will:

1. Inform the public about who is receiving the refund money from donated refundables;
2. Provide fiscal oversight for the distribution of the refund money; and,
3. Support the sustainable operation of the free store.

3. Definitions

3.1 Donated Refundables means:

- any refundable item abandoned at the Haines Junction Waste Management Facility, including unmarked items and items deposited in other sections of the landfill; and
- any refundable item which has been brought into the Recycle Centre by a client who indicates that the items are to be donated, whether verbally or in writing.

3.2 Donated Refundables Fund means the monies amassed in exchange for Donated Refundables.

3.3 Recycle Centre Staff means any Village staff member who is working at the Village of Haines Junction Recycle Centre at the time that refundables are being processed.

3.4 Refundables means any items which the Village of Haines Junction Recycle Centre is authorized to purchase in exchange for refund money.

4. Implementation

4.1 Receipt of Donated Refundables and Donated Refundables Funds Process

1. Recycle Centre Staff shall accept Donated Refundables within the confines of the Haines Junction Waste Management Facility.
2. Recycle Centre Staff shall be responsible for counting any abandoned Donated Refundables.
3. Recycle Centre Staff shall purchase Donated Refundables for cash and shall indicate and initial each such transaction on the Beverage Container Regulation Form.
4. Recycle Centre Staff shall deposit the cash into the Donated Refundables Fund in a clearly marked envelope in the Recycle Centre safe at the end of each day.
5. If there is a points club in effect, such as the Yukon Recycling Club, Recycle Centre Staff shall distribute the points earned evenly between all active club members when processing Donated Refundables.
6. Recycle Centre Staff shall bring any cash Donated Refundables Fund monies into the Village Office on a weekly basis.
7. Administrative Staff shall count the Donated Refundables Fund money upon receipt, store the monies in a secure location, and complete a yearly spreadsheet indicating the date and amount of monies received.

4.2 Distribution of Donated Refundables Fund Process

1. All Donated Refundables Fund monies will be directed to providing honoraria for volunteers at the free store.
2. Council will be provided with a report at the end of the fiscal year showing the amount of donations received, and the amount of funds paid out in honoraria to volunteers at the free store.
3. Should funds be remaining at the end of a fiscal year, they will be made available for use in the following year.

5. General information

Questions about the policy should be directed to the Chief Administrative Officer
cao@hainesjunction.ca

6. Application

6.1 Relationship to other policies

This policy replaces Policy 39-24 adopted by Resolution #225-24 on the 14th day of August, 2024, which replaced Policy #31-40 adopted by Resolution #410-20 on the 25th day of November, 2020.

6.2 Order of policies

Where any part of this policy conflicts with requirements in Village Bylaws, the requirements in the Bylaws will apply.

POLICY TITLE:	Donation of Refundable Items Policy
POLICY #:	44-25
EFFECTIVE DATE:	May 28, 2025
ADOPTED BY COUNCIL ON:	May 28, 2025
RESOLUTION #:	xxx-xx

Approved by:

Diane Strand, Mayor

Dave Fairbank, CAO



Village of Haines Junction Report to Council

May 28, 2025

☒ Council Decision
☒ Council Direction
☐ Council Information
☐ Closed Meeting

RE: 2025 Skate Park Attendant Position

Recommendation

Council, take this report under consideration and provide staff with direction, if applicable.

Background

Over the years of 2019 and 2020, the village purchased approximately \$18,300 worth of equipment to develop an indoor skate park in the Arena. The skate park has been offered as free recreational service to the community each year since the equipment was purchased. A part-time seasonal position has been hired to supervise activities at the skate park annually.

Notes from the July 24, 2019 Council meeting:

*“Request for Direction: CAFN Youth Programs funding for recreational opportunities
Council approved the purchase of a portable skate park to be used in the arena during the off-season and for a portable splash park if feasible.
Council acknowledged that the remaining summer is short but noted the importance of moving forward with this project given the likelihood of there not being a pool next year and voiced support for continuing to seek alternate summer recreation opportunities.”*

Current Status

The Village posted the annual part-time seasonal position for the Skate Park Attendant position on April 22nd, 2025 and has received two responses. A condition of employment is having a valid first aid certification. If filled the position would start on June 16th and end on August 24th which roughly corresponds with the school summer break. The skate park is open three days a week for 4 hours a day and the attendant position wage is \$26.87/hour, for a total projected wage of \$3,546. We do not have exact data on the number of daily participants but in discussion with former attendants we know that it has had limited use in years past outside of days that are coordinated with the daycare or BGC.

Discussion/Analysis

Having an attendant in the building when it is open to the public is required for safety and security. Having an attendant with training in first aid is also highly recommended. That said, the day care

and BGC programs have first aid attendants and could make use of the facility without the need of a Village staff position. This would be up to 3 days/ week. The facility could also be made available to community groups with assurance that they provide supervision/first aid.

Asset Management Impact

The capital investment in the seasonal skate park equipment has been paid and is expected to last for years to come with little maintenance. The cost of lighting the building for 12 hours a week is not known but is not significant. Set-up and take-down each year takes approximately two full days for 2-3 Public Works staff.

Alternatives Considered

1. Council may elect to end the skate park program and surplus the equipment
2. Council could provide the daycare, BGC, and other qualified community groups with access to the skate park upon request
3. Proceed with hiring the Skate Park Attendant position, as in years past, while redoubling efforts to advertise and support greater use of the facilities

Staff recommend Option 2 as the most cost-effective means of providing recreational opportunities to the community given the relatively low usage of the facility by drop-in users.

Draft Resolution

That Council directs staff to allow free use of the skate park facility over the summer season to user groups, with the assurance that safety and security will be maintained by a first aid attendant. And that the user groups must provide this first aid attendant at all times that the facility is in use.

Prepared by

David Fairbank
Chief Administrative Officer



Village of Haines Junction Report to Council

May 28, 2025

☒ Council Decision
☒ Council Direction
☐ Council Information
☐ Closed Meeting

RE: After hours access to landfill for high-volume users

Recommendation

Council approve the After Hours Access for High Volume Users Policy, allowing high-volume users to access to the landfill on Mondays and Tuesdays to certain high-volume users on the following conditions:

- Access will require an application to be made to the Village.
- The high-volume user has made a reasonable case for why access is required on Monday/Tuesday.
- Users granted access will need to enter into a contract with the Village and agree to the Village's terms and conditions for being granted access after hours.

Background

The hours of operation for the Haines Junction landfill are Wednesday to Sunday, 9:00am to 6:00pm. These hours have been in effect since October 25, 2023, when it was recognized that landfill hours need to be dependent on staffing. Staff must in attendance to supervise what is coming into the facility (for liability reasons), and current staffing capacity enables a five-day/week service level. The staffing of a gate attendant is also a condition in the Village's Interim Landfill Regionalization Agreement with the Government of Yukon.

Current Status

High volume users (e.g. commercial land clearing activities, as well as Yukon government and Parks Canada campgrounds) have expressed challenges with not being able to access the landfill on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Staff would like permission to provide Monday/Tuesday access to certain high-volume users on the following conditions (outlined in the attached Draft Access Policy):

- Access will require an application to be made to the Village (Appendix A in the Draft Access Policy).
- The high-volume user has made a reasonable case for why access is required on Monday/Tuesday.
- Users granted access will need to enter into a contract with the Village and agree to the Village's terms and conditions for being granted access after hours (Appendix B in the Draft Access Policy).

Discussion/Analysis

By providing access five days/week, the Village of Haines Junction is providing a level of service that is greater than most other incorporated municipalities in the Yukon (outside of Whitehorse).

- Watson Lake: Closed Sunday/Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday. Thursday-Saturday 10-5.
- Faro: Closed Sunday/Monday/Thursday. Tuesday, Friday and Saturday 9-4, Wednesday 1-4.
- Mayo: Closed Wednesday. Monday-Friday 9-6, Saturday-Sunday 9-8.
- Carmacks: Closed Sunday/Monday. Tuesday-Saturday 10-6.
- Dawson: Closed Sunday/Monday. Tuesday-Saturday 11-6 (winter), 12-7(summer).
- Teslin: Closed Sunday/Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday. Thursday-Friday noon-6pm. Saturday 10-5pm.

Asset Management Impact

There are risks with allowing after hours access to the landfill including:

- Unsupervised tipping could result in users dropping off materials in the wrong location in the facility, the dropping off banned materials.
- Disputes may arise over invoicing/billing for materials dropped off unsupervised.
- Users may forget to close and lock the gate after entry, allowing others to access the facility.

These risks will be mitigated by:

- Cameras at the front gate will record who has entered the facility and provide a rough estimate of the volume of materials they are bringing in with them.
- Users must agree to abide by all sorting and tipping fee requirements.
- Hazardous materials are not to be dropped off after hours.
- User access will be cancelled if there are any issues with dropping off materials in the wrong location or if users drop off banned materials.
- Users must agree to pay for invoiced amounts as determined by the Village – disputes over invoicing will not be entertained.
- Users are liable for removing any banned materials and cleaning up any spills.

Additional staff time will be needed to review camera footage on Wednesday mornings to assess who entered the facility on Monday/Tuesday. In certain circumstances, staff may need to assess materials dropped off by users after hours to ensure they abide by tipping and sorting requirements.

Alternatives Considered

1. Opening the landfill 7 days/week, increasing staffing costs but reducing risks associated with permitting after hours access.

2. Not providing after hours access to high volume users and maintaining the current level of service that users have adjusted to since these hours came into effect in October 2023.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities

One goal of Council strategic plan is to define service levels that are both effective and financially sustainable.

Draft Resolution

THAT the After-Hours Landfill Access Agreement for High Volume Users was read and adopted on May 25, 2025.

Prepared by

Aynslie Ogden
Policy and Communications Manager



VILLAGE OF HAINES JUNCTION

After Hours Landfill Access for High Volume Users

Policy #45-25

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide (approved) high volume users, who demonstrate a clear need to dispose of garbage when the landfill is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, with terms and conditions for after-hours access.

2. Policy Statement

The Policy will describe the process for approving and granting access to high volume users to the landfill on Mondays and Tuesdays when the landfill is closed as well as the terms and conditions of access.

3. Definitions

- 3.1 High volume users – Refers to volumes that are typically generated by commercial and institutional users (e.g. land clearing activities, Yukon government and Parks Canada campgrounds).
- 3.2 Hours of operation – The hours of operation for the Haines Junction landfill are Wednesday to Sunday, 9:00am to 6:00pm.

4. Implementation

4.1 Application

All users requesting after hours access must complete the After Hours Access Policy Application Form (Appendix A).

4.2 Assessment of applications

Applications will be assessed per the following criteria:

- The applicant is within the Haines Junction / Dakwäkäda regional boundary (as defined in the Interim Regionalization Agreement).
- The regular operating hours of the landfill are creating hardship for the applicant.
- A high volume of waste needs to be disposed of on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- The waste to be dropped off will not include hazardous materials or banned materials.

4.3 Acceptance of terms and conditions

Appendix B outlines the terms and conditions of after-hours access and must be signed by the applicant and the CAO before access will be granted.

Access will be revoked if any of these terms and conditions are not met.

5. General information

Questions about the policy should be directed to the Chief Administrative Officer at cao@hainesjunction.ca

6. Application

6.1 Relationship to other policies

This policy relates to the operating hours at the landfill (Motion 290-23). Should operating hours at the landfill be changed, this policy should be reviewed.

This policy relates to the Village's Interim Landfill Regionalization Agreement with the Government of Yukon which requires the Village to monitor all materials brought into the landfill.

6.2 Order of policies

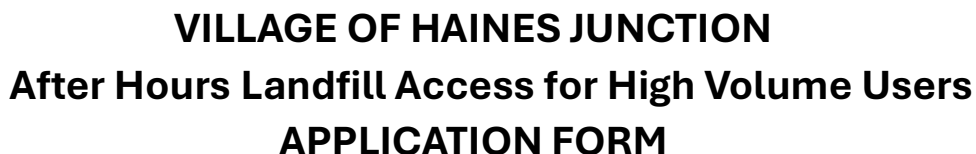
Where any part of this policy conflicts with requirements in Village Bylaws, the requirements in the Bylaws will apply.

POLICY TITLE: After Hours Landfill Access for High Volume Users
POLICY #: 45-25
EFFECTIVE DATE: May 28, 2025
ADOPTED BY COUNCIL ON: May 28, 2025
RESOLUTION #: XXX-XX

Approved by:

Diane Strand, Mayor

Dave Fairbank, CAO



Please describe the volume of waste that you bring to the landfill on a weekly basis.

Please describe the type of waste that you bring to the landfill

Please describe why you are requesting access to the landfill on days that the landfill is closed, specifically Mondays and Tuesdays:

Signature

Date

Please attach additional page(s) if needed



VILLAGE OF HAINES JUNCTION

After Hours Landfill Access for High Volume Users

AGREEMENT

Name: _____

Business : _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

As an after-hours user of the landfill, I agree to abide by the following terms and conditions (please check all boxes to indicate you have read the terms and conditions and are in agreement)

- ☐ I will limit after hours access to Mondays and Tuesdays when the landfill is not open.
- ☐ I will ensure the gate is locked when I am on site, and when I leave the site.
- ☐ I will dispose of materials in the appropriate locations at the landfill.
- ☐ I understand that it is my responsibility to understand where materials are to be disposed of at the landfill BEFORE arriving to drop off materials after hours.
- ☐ I will not bring hazardous/special waste to the landfill for disposal after hours.
- ☐ I will not bring white goods, oil tanks, vehicles, tires, concrete, e-waste, automotive batteries, or materials containing asbestos to the landfill for disposal after hours.
- ☐ I will not bring any materials to the landfill that may require analytical testing to demonstrate acceptable contamination levels to the landfill for disposal after hours.

- ☐ I will not bring banned materials to the landfill for disposal after hours.
- ☐ I will not share my access code with anyone other than my staff who are working for me.
- ☐ I am responsible for ensuring my staff understand the terms and conditions associated with after hours access.
- ☐ I understand that I am responsible for paying tipping fees for all non-recyclable materials that are disposed of after hours.
- ☐ I understand that the gate attendant will estimate volumes based on camera footage and that this is inherently an imperfect estimation. I understand that the final decision on any disputes on invoicing will rest with the CAO.
- ☐ I understand that if any of these terms and conditions are not met, I will lose the privilege of disposing of materials after hours.
- ☐ I understand that I am responsible for removing any banned materials that I bring to the landfill after hours
- ☐ I understand that I am responsible for cleaning up after any spills that result from my after hours access to the landfill.
- ☐ I understand that my activities at the landfill will be recorded on camera.

Agreed to by:

Signature

Date

Approved by:

CAO

Date

Donna Istchenko
Box 2037
Haines Junction, Yukon
Y0B 1L0

May 20, 2025

Mayor and Council
Village of Haines Junction
Box 5339
Haines Junction, Yukon
Y0B 1L0

Dear Mayor Strand and Members of Council:

In honor of Pride month and in accordance with the Village of Haines Junction Flag Protocol Policy #30-20, I would like to request that the Progress Pride flag be flown on the courtesy pole at the St. Elias Centre for the month of June 2025, barring any competing requests.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Istchenko', with a stylized, cursive script.

Donna Istchenko

Indigenous Survivors Day - National Blanket Ceremony Day

From: Troy Abromaitis <tabromaitis@gmail.com>

Sent: May 7, 2025 7:03 PM

To: Haines Junction Administration <admin@hainesjunction.ca>; Haines Junction CAO <cao@hainesjunction.ca>; mayor@hainesjunction.ca; Council <Council@hainesjunction.ca>

Subject: Indigenous Survivors Day - National Blanket Ceremony Day



Dear Mayor and Members of Haines Junction Village Council,

I write to you today in a deeply personal capacity—this request comes from my heart and is not made on behalf of any organization or group.

On behalf of myself and my family, as Sixties Scoop survivors—myself and my late mother—I am writing to respectfully and personally request that the Village of Haines Junction formally proclaim June 30th as “Indigenous Survivors Day – National Blanket Ceremony Day.”

As a community located within the Traditional Territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Haines Junction holds a special place in the broader landscape of Indigenous governance, cultural resilience, and northern healing. A proclamation from your community would carry significant meaning—not only for those locally impacted by the Sixties Scoop, Millennium Scoop, and birth alerts—but also for those across the country who are still walking the path of reconnection and recovery. This request is deeply personal. I am a Sixties Scoop survivor who was separated from my family and spent over 30 years disconnected from my culture and community. My mother, who also survived the Scoop, passed away earlier this year. One of her final wishes was that the voices and stories of Survivors be acknowledged across this country. It is in her memory—and in honour of all those still seeking their way home—that I write to you.

Indigenous Survivors Day – National Blanket Ceremony Day would be a ceremonial and educational opportunity—one that centres Survivors in a space of dignity, visibility, and care. The blanket, long used in our Nations as a symbol of honour, protection, and belonging, would serve as the central symbol of this day—offering what many Survivors were denied.

This proclamation would be an expression of the Village’s ongoing commitment to reconciliation and partnership with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and it would align with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). While September 30th nationally honours Residential School Survivors, June 30th complements that date by specifically recognizing Survivors of child welfare and adoption systems.

I would be honoured to support this initiative in any way—whether by sharing more of my story, offering background materials, or assisting with the planning of a future blanketing ceremony or community event.

On behalf of my late mother, my family, and Survivors across the country, thank you for considering this heartfelt request. I hope the Village of Haines Junction will help lead the way in creating a future rooted in ceremony, justice, and belonging.

With respect and hope,

Troy Abromaitis

Sixties Scoop Survivor

Member, Lytton First Nation



Minister's Office
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

May 21, 2025

Diane Strand
Mayor for Village of Haines Junction
PO Box 5339
Haines Junction, Y0B 1L0

Dear Ms. Strand:

Re: Light-up Crosswalks near Da Ku Cultural Centre

I hope this message finds you well. I am reaching out in response to concerns raised by resident of Haines Junction regarding pedestrian safety near the Da Ku Cultural Centre, a location that serves as an important community hub, particularly for families accessing the nearby daycare from the paved trail along the highway.

Please know that the safety of both pedestrians and drivers is a top priority for the Government of Yukon. We understand the importance of ensuring safe, visible, and accessible crossings, especially in areas with high foot traffic.

This summer, engineers from the Department of Highways and Public Works will assess the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing on the Alaska Highway near the Da Ku Cultural Centre. Based on this assessment, and subject to budget availability, we are planning to install pedestrian crossing beacons at this location in 2026.

Ongoing community input helps us make informed decisions that support safety and accessibility across Yukon.

Sincerely,

Nils Clarke
Minister of Highways and Public Works

Cc: Barb Joe, Chief, Champagne Aishihik First Nation
Jennifer Lee, Executive Director, Champagne Aishihik First Nation
Wade Istchenko, MLA for Kluane