



Advocacy Update to Membership - March 2025

TARIFF DEVELOPMENTS / PROCUREMENT / BUY LOCAL

At this time of heightened insecurity in our economy, the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce continues to be committed to supporting local businesses by advocating for policies, partnerships, and initiatives that drive economic growth, enhance resilience, and create new opportunities for success. Our focus is on ensuring that Whitehorse and Yukon remain competitive, attractive to investment, and well-equipped to navigate ongoing economic challenges, particularly those related to current tariff developments.

To further these efforts, the Chamber established the Economic Resilience and Development Committee (ERDC). This committee plays a vital role in gathering feedback from Chamber members and stakeholders to inform decision-making, ensuring that policies and strategies reflect the needs of the local economy. By collaborating closely with stakeholders, the Chamber advocates for policies and actions with all levels of government that are strategic, impactful, and responsive to the unique needs of each sector, both in the short and long term. This collaborative approach is essential to building a resilient economy that can withstand ongoing changes and disruptions.

Through the work of our Board of Directors and committees we are currently focused on:

- 1. Procurement and Local Support:** The message from our Joint Procurement committee with the Yukon Chamber remains steadfast in support of enhanced local procurement strategies that prioritize Yukon businesses and organizations, fostering long-term growth and resilience.
- 2. Trade Barriers:** We align with the Government of Yukon and governments across the North and Canada in promoting stronger interprovincial trade and investment. We support the removal of trade barriers and the enhancement of cross-border business opportunities. Through the ERDC we are gathering information from the local business community about trade barriers they have encountered and actively bringing those issues to government to ensure our local business community is considered when drafting new policy for stronger interprovincial trade.
- 3. Supporting the Buy Local Initiative:** We continue to champion the Buy Local initiative, boosting the visibility of Yukon businesses and encouraging local engagement. Our new series You Can in the Yukon! is aimed at informing Yukoners and the rest of Canada everything that can be accomplished locally using businesses based here in the Yukon. The Buy Local initiative is key to strengthening the local economy, and we also advocate for programs that foster growth and create new markets for Yukon-based enterprises in light of tariff-related challenges.
- 4. Critical Investment:** Along with the community Chamber network and Industry partners, we advocate for strategic investments in large infrastructure projects, new and emerging sectors, and businesses with growth potential. In addition, we push for investments in infrastructure and programs

that attract business, foster growth, and ensure long-term stability and prosperity, enabling Yukon businesses to thrive in a diversifying economy despite the challenges presented by tariffs.

We will continue to champion a strategic and collaborative approach between business leaders, industry, all levels of government, and stakeholders to remove barriers, improve market access, and drive policies and programs that enhance economic resilience and development.