



## Advocacy Update to Membership - March 2025

### BUSINESS SAFETY: PROGRESS AND RESULTS

The Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce (WCC) continues to prioritize safety and crime prevention as top concerns for our local businesses. Our ongoing collaboration with key stakeholders, including the RCMP, First Nations and all levels of government, including judiciary representatives, has resulted in productive discussions addressing the challenges businesses face from theft and crime. These discussions have centered around critical initiatives:

- [Community Safety and Well-Being Plan](#): A joint effort between the City of Whitehorse and the Government of Yukon, this plan aims to identify local safety concerns, prioritize actions to address them, and outline strategies to improve overall safety and well-being throughout the community.
- Prolific Offender Management Program: Originally piloted between 2010 and 2013, the program demonstrated a notable decrease in offending patterns. The Government of Yukon is actively working to revitalize this program by reviewing past records and consulting with other jurisdictions to develop an effective repeat offender management strategy.
- [Integrated Restorative Justice Approach](#): The Government of Yukon has established an Integrated Restorative Justice Unit to enhance restorative justice service delivery, improve adult and youth diversions, and increase engagement with First Nations governments.
- [Safer Communities and Neighborhoods Program](#): This program is actively utilized to address property-related crimes in Whitehorse, aiming to enhance community safety.
- [Downtown Whitehorse Safety](#): Efforts are underway to improve safety in the downtown area, with investments to enhance RCMP capacity through increased officer positions, upgraded equipment, infrastructure, and support for specialized teams like the CAR 867 program, which provides crisis response and resource connections for individuals in need.

Although there is more work to be done, these initiatives reflect tangible steps toward a unified solution that addresses the business community's concerns. The WCC remains committed to ensuring that the voices of our local businesses are heard and that long-term solutions are implemented. Additionally, the launch of the [SafeBiz: Whitehorse Community Safety Pilot Program](#), funded through the Crime Prevention Grant program, is a direct outcome of these advocacy efforts. This program offers valuable resources such as tailored security assessments, safety training, and an updated security checklist to help businesses enhance their safety measures and build a more resilient community.

For businesses affected by property crimes, we encourage the use of [Victim Impact Statements](#), which help personalize the case for judicial review, and [Community Impact Statements](#), which highlight the broader societal effects of crime. These tools play a critical role in ensuring that the full scope of the crime's impact is considered, fostering a more comprehensive approach to crime prevention.