



## Cycling Association of Yukon

4061 4th Ave, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 1H1

Website: <https://yukoncycling.com>

Email: [info@yukoncycling.com](mailto:info@yukoncycling.com)

---

May 3, 2021

Yukon Liberal Party  
Box 183, 108 Elliott Street  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 1C2

### **Re: Implementing Cycling Priorities**

Congratulations on forming Yukon's new government. During the election, both the Yukon Liberal Party and Yukon NDP outlined commitments to Yukon residents travelling by bicycle and in response to questions raised by Whitehorse Urban Cycling Coalition and Cycling Association of Yukon (see <https://wucc.ca/input/2021-territorial-election/>).

There are compelling reasons why this new government should make cycling a tangible component of its priorities over the next few years:

1. In the Confidence and Supply Agreement, you have agreed to take stronger action on the climate crisis. We know that transportation is the major source of greenhouse gas emissions in the Yukon. Making cycling a priority will be an important tool to give Yukon residents the choice and opportunity to reduce emissions.
2. Spending on health care is the Yukon's single largest cost. Investing in cycling has significant cost effectiveness in improving health outcomes, with literature reporting a 5:1 economic health benefit related to investing in cycling infrastructure. That means for every dollar spend on cycling infrastructure results in 5 dollars of health care savings[1]. Investing in cycling demonstrates fiscal responsibility: it's just smart business.
3. With improved infrastructure, more and more people are choosing cycling as a means of daily transport and not just for recreation. This includes students, daily commuters, elders, and those who prefer to cycle rather than drive or ride. The growing popularity of e-bikes has further increased interest in urban cycling.

We believe now is the time to start rebalancing equity in transportation.

**To this end, we ask that you demonstrate your commitments by including explicit reference to cycling in the mandate letters for the Department of Highways and Public Works and the Department of Education.**

If we are to continue moving to a more inclusive, equitable society, it is important that it include our next generation and expand opportunities for all Yukoners, especially children, who continue to choose cycling for day-to-day travel.

In our questions during the election campaign, we offered two tangible suggestions for the department's mandate letters, and for sake of convenience, repeat them below for your consideration:

- *Department of Highways and Public Works should work to build and maintain public infrastructure and spaces for people to travel through and access government facilities by foot and bicycle year-round.*
- *Department of Education will increase children's active travel options to and from schools.*

Yours very truly,

Whitehorse Urban Cycling Coalition

email: [connect@wucc.ca](mailto:connect@wucc.ca)

website: <https://wucc.ca>

Cycling Association of Yukon

email: [info@yukoncycling.com](mailto:info@yukoncycling.com)

website: <https://yukoncycling.com>

CC: Yukon NDP

---

[1] For example, see Road to Health, prepared for Toronto Public Health, 2012:  
<https://www.indeco.com/pdfs/backgroundfile-46520.pdf>