

Question 2: What specific steps will your party take to increase social assistance rates and implement basic income pilots programs to ensure financial independence for those fleeing violence?

Yukon Liberal Party Response:

We will release the review the Liberal government commissioned on social assistance, which will commit to large scale amendments of the regulation, to improve equity and access for those requiring social assistance. We welcome the recently released Basic Income Guarantee report from the Yukon Anti Poverty Coalition, and we commit to reviewing and considering if Yukon could implement a basic income pilot program, as was identified in the Putting People First report. The Yukon Liberal government has introduced and expanded programs that help women and families fleeing violence achieve financial independence and stability. This includes a dedicated gender-based violence stream in the Canada–Yukon Housing Benefit, providing roughly \$2 million annually in rent and housing supports.

Yukon New Democratic Party Response:

It was the Yukon NDP that made the Liberal government increase social assistance rates. We also required the Liberals to initiate a review of the Social Assistance Act. We will complete that review, ensuring that rates are fair and realistic for the Yukon context.

We will look to the recommendations from the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition to explore the possibility of a basic income pilot. We will increase funding to Yukon Food Banks, create a universal school food program in partnership with the Yukon First Nations Education Directorate and expand funding for existing meal programs throughout the territory to make sure that no Yukoner goes hungry.

Yukon Party Response:

Should the Yukon Party form government, we commit to reviewing current rates to ensure they are adequately assisting those in need of them, including individuals fleeing violence. We are not contemplating a basic income pilot program.