Village of Carmacks Council

Respectfully acknowledges that we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation.

Agenda 26-14

Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Carmacks, Yukon

To be held in the **Council Chambers** of the Carmacks Municipal Building at **7:00 PM** on **Tuesday, July 21st, 2026**

Zoom Information: Meeting ID: **719 907 0781** Passcode: **662543**

Agenda

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Adoption of Agenda** *Motion to Approve*

3. **Adoption of Minutes**
   3.1 Regular Meeting of July 7th, 2026 *Motion to Approve*

4. **Delegation**
   4.1

5. **Correspondence**
   5.1 Letter from Minister of Health & Social Services, Hon. Brad Cathers (Yukon Government) RE: Health Infrastructure in Carmacks (July 15, 2026)

6. **Reports**
   6.1 Council Activity Reports
   6.2 Mayor's Report
   6.3 CAO Report
   6.4 Association of Yukon Communities (AYC)

7. **Bylaws**
   None

8. **New and Unfinished Business**
   8.1 Follow-up on landfill access for local contractors (Update & Recommendation)
   8.2 Follow-up on May 18 Council Strategic Planning session (Update)
   8.3 List of Outstanding Property Owners
   8.4 Yukon English Project from Fred Hook (Corpus Research Assistant)

9. **Question Period**

10. **In-Camera Session** (*Motion to go in and out of session with recorded times)*
    2 items for discussion from administration

11. **Adjournment**

MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF CARMACKS ON JULY 7th, 2026, IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor D. Mitchell, Mayor J. Lachance (Zoom)

Councillors: D. Hansen, H. Belanger, T. Wheeler,
Staff: CAO B. Rogers, P. Singh,
Delegation: RCMP Devin Peters, Arbor Webster

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Deputy Mayor D. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. **AGENDA:** Council reviewed the agenda.

26-13-01 M/S Councillors D. Hansen / H. Belanger motioned that the agenda be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

3. **MINUTES:**
   3.1 From the regular council meeting on June 23rd, 2026

26-13-02 M/S Councillors H. Belanger / T. Wheeler motioned that the minutes be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. **DELEGATION**
   4.1 RCMP Monthly Report

Corporal Devin Peters presented the Carmacks RCMP Monthly Policing Report for June 2026. Cpl. Peters provided an overview of policing statistics, traffic enforcement, river patrols, school and community engagement activities, and notable occurrences during the month.

Cpl. Peters also discussed concerns regarding the public release of RCMP reports through council packages and minutes. Council was advised that the RCMP is reviewing the matter and may provide further guidance regarding what information may be released publicly.

Council thanked the RCMP for their ongoing service and community involvement.

4.2 **Community Services Arbor Webster**

Arbor Webster provided an update on behalf of the Government of Yukon's Department of Community Services.

Council was advised that the informal Municipal Act review committee had completed its review and that Community Affairs was preparing a report outlining its findings, key issues and potential solutions.

She also highlighted two training opportunities: a 90-minute asset management workshop tailored to the Village of Carmacks, and a three-hour roles and responsibilities session for Council, the Mayor, the CAO and administration. Council expressed interest in considering the training after the summer.

An update was also provided on the development of a community infrastructure plan and coordinated land-development strategies for rural Yukon and Whitehorse. A survey and project snapshot form had been distributed, with responses due July 29, 2026. Council requested further information about the contractor retained to review Yukon's land-development processes and emphasized the value of an independent perspective.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Naku Construction – Mitigation Plan

Council reviewed correspondence from Naku Construction responding to the Village's concerns regarding unauthorized construction activities on River Drive.

The correspondence acknowledged the Village's concerns and described measures intended to prevent similar issues during future construction projects.

Further discussion occurred under Item 8.4.

5.2 Minister of Justice – Firearms Engagement

Council reviewed correspondence from the Honorable Laura Lang Minister of Justice regarding engagement on firearms education.

Council discussed referring the matter to the upcoming Joint Council Meeting to obtain the perspective of Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and address the matter as a community-wide issue.

26-13-03 M/S Councillors T. Wheeler / H. Belanger motioned that correspondence be received and filled.

CARRIED

6. Reports

6.1 Council Activity Reports

Deputy Mayor D. Mitchell reported on participation in the Canada Day parade, community activities, and the Celebration of Life for former Mayor Lee Bodie.

Councillor T. Wheeler reported on Canada Day activities, family commitments, swimming pool programming, and the collection of a water sample by Village.

Councillors H. Belanger reported on attendance at the Celebration of Life for former Mayor Lee Bodie.

6.2 Mayor's Report

Mayor Justin Lachance reported that he was participating in Canadian Ranger activities in the Carmacks area. Mayor Lachance thanked the Carmacks Canadian Ranger Patrol for participating in the Canada Day parade and acknowledged Village staff, volunteers, and community members for their efforts in organizing the Canada Day celebrations.

Mayor Lachance thanked the family of former Mayor Lee Bodie for organizing a meaningful Celebration of Life.

6.3 CAO Report

CAO Blake Rogers reported on activities completed since the previous Council meeting.

CAO advised that the next Joint Council Meeting with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation had been scheduled for July 29, 2026, at 5:00 PM and would be hosted by Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation.

Emergency preparedness activities continued over the weekend after river conditions were elevated to a flood watch. Administration monitored water levels and remained in contact with the Fire Chief, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation Emergency Management, and Yukon emergency officials. The river had begun to decline and the advisory was reduced to a high streamflow advisory, although monitoring would continue.

Department manager meetings continued on a biweekly basis to improve internal communication and follow up on Council direction. Administration also participated in meetings concerning bylaw enforcement, emergency planning, land-development strategies, housing financing, animal care and control, and future Joint Council priorities.

CAO advised that Administration had begun meeting with financial institutions to better understand barriers faced by Housing Accelerator Fund applicants. Key issues included low rural property assessments, high down-payment requirements, modular-home financing, transportation costs, and limited comparable property sales. Administration plans to meet with all five major banks and share the findings with the Association of Yukon Communities and other Yukon municipalities.

Work also continued on reviewing emergency management plans, updating the Village Strategic Plan, improving public communications, researching animal control initiatives, and supporting housing development.

6.4 Finance Report

Finance Officer A. Wylimczyk provided report for June 2026. Council reviewed the Finance Report. Administration clarified that approximately 81 percent of property owners had paid their 2026 property taxes by the deadline, which was lower than in previous years. Outstanding accounts will be subject to the applicable penalty and interest, and additional notices will be issued.

26-13-04 M/S Councillors T. Wheeler / H. Belanger motioned to accept the expenditure summary report which includes payroll and cheque log as presented.

CARRIED

6.5 Recreation Report

The Recreation Report was deferred to the next Regular Council Meeting.

6.6 PWGM Report

The Public Works Report was deferred to the next Regular Council Meeting.

6.7 Bylaw Report

Council received the Bylaw Enforcement Report for June 2026.
Bylaw Services Constable Liam Ferraz provided an update on enforcement activities conducted throughout the month, including patrols, dog control matters, parking concerns, and public inquiries.
Administration confirmed that a violation ticket had been issued to a contractor in connection with unauthorized construction activities.

6.8 Association of Yukon Communities Report

Nothing to Report.

7. Bylaws

None.

8. New and Unfinished Business

8.1 Proposed Joint Council Meeting Agenda Items

Council discussed possible agenda items for the July 29, 2026 Joint Council Meeting with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation. Proposed topics included the lagoon, bylaw enforcement, the Community Safety Officer program, health infrastructure, solid waste and recycling, firearms education, the proposed railway corridor, energy projects, animal care and control, emergency planning, and Operation Nanook.

Administration will coordinate the proposed agenda items with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation.

8.2 Council Strategic Planning Session Follow-Up

Administration provided Council with a draft strategic plan prepared following the May 18, 2026 planning session. The draft reviewed progress under the Imagine Carmacks Official Community Plan 2021–2031 and identified possible interim Council priorities.

Copies will be provided to Council for review and comment. Administration will prepare a revised draft incorporating Council feedback. Council supported undertaking public engagement once the next draft is completed.

8.3 Landfill Access for Local Contractors

Administration reported on options for providing contractors with improved access to the landfill. Unsupervised key access was not recommended because of liability, regulatory, operational, and accountability concerns.

Council discussed alternatives including scheduled access by Public Works staff, an on-call arrangement, coordinating contractor schedules with existing landfill hours, and extending the landfill operating schedule. Administration advised that opening the landfill for an additional day may improve service and generate additional revenue.

Administration will review staffing, labour, scheduling, and financial implications and return to Council with recommendations.

8.4 River Drive Construction Issues

Administration provided an update regarding unauthorized construction activities at the end of River Drive. Concerns included work proceeding without the required permit, debris and rocks on the Robert Campbell Highway, damage to Village infrastructure, lack of advance notice, and unclear responsibilities among the parties involved.

Administration communicated with Naku Construction, Carmacks Development Corporation, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, the project manager, and the

Government of Yukon. Naku Construction acknowledged the concerns, apologized, and agreed to pay for damage to Village property.

A total of $1,800 in bylaw fines was issued. Public Works will inspect the affected Village assets after construction is completed, and the responsible party will be invoiced for repair costs.

Council requested information regarding how fine revenue and other miscellaneous revenue are recorded and whether such funds could be allocated to a dedicated community or programming fund. Administration will report back at a future meeting.

8.5 Housing Accelerator Fund Financing Challenges

Council discussed financial and logistical barriers affecting Housing Accelerator Fund applicants. Challenges included low rural land assessments, high modular-home deposits, limited mortgage options before a modular unit is installed, transportation and insurance costs, and limited local contractor availability.

Administration had met with Scotiabank and CIBC and plans to meet with the remaining major financial institutions. The findings will be shared with the Association of Yukon Communities, other municipalities, and government housing officials to support advocacy for improved financing options in rural Yukon.

Administration also advised that a Request for Expressions of Interest was being prepared for modular-home suppliers. The Village will explore whether a municipal purchase could help negotiate reduced pricing or deposit requirements for participating residents.

8.6 Operation Nanook

Council reviewed an invitation for the Village to participate in an Operation Nanook emergency-management tabletop exercise. Administration recommended participating because of the potential value to municipal emergency planning.

Council supported adding the matter to the upcoming Joint Council Meeting agenda to explore participation with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation.

8.7 Village Communications

Council and Administration discussed options to improve communication with residents, particularly those who do not use Facebook or other online services. Council noted that the electronic sign is useful for short notices but is not suitable for detailed community information.

Council discussed the former community newsletter, The Hooter, which was historically assembled by volunteers using notices submitted by residents and organizations. The Village provided paper and photocopying support. The publication ended after volunteer and staff capacity declined.

Possible options included working with the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation communications staff, involving Tantalus School, consulting former newsletter contributors, developing a Village-specific one-page newsletter, and increasing printed notices at public locations.

Administration will consult with community partners and return to Council with options for improving Village communications.

8.8 Water License Renewal

Administration advised that the Village's current water licence expires at the end of 2028 and recommended beginning the renewal process well in advance. The process may take a year or longer because of the Yukon Water Board's workload and the technical and regulatory information required.

Preliminary discussions had begun with an environmental engineering firm regarding the possible scope and cost of the work. Administration recommended first meeting with Yukon Water Board staff to clarify the process and required information before determining whether a Request for Proposals is needed.

Council also discussed operator training and certification. Two Village employees are expected to attend a water-operator conference in Vancouver in September, and Administration is exploring additional certification and training opportunities through the Environmental Operators Certification Program and Yukon University.

Administration will confirm the renewal requirements and return to Council with a proposed scope of work, timeline, and budget.

9. QUESTION PERIOD

None.

10. IN-CAMERA

Motion to move into Closed Meeting in accordance with the Yukon Municipal Act, Section 213 (3) (a) if in the case of a council, the council decides during the meeting to meet as a council committee to discuss a matter.

26-13-05 M/S Councillor T. Wheeler / H. Belanger motioned to go in-camera at 8:44 PM.

CARRIED

26-13-06 M/S Councillor T. Wheeler / D. Hansen motioned to go out of in-camera session at 9:29 PM.

CARRIED

11. ADJOURNMENT

26-13-07 M/S Councillor H. Belanger motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 PM.

Deputy Mayor D. Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 9:29 PM.

Deputy Mayor D. Mitchell

Municipal Clerk Parminder Singh

Office of the Minister
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

July 15, 2026

Chief Russell Blackjack
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation
P.O. Box 135
Carmacks, YT Y0B 1C0 via email:russell.blackjack@lscfn.ca

Mayor Justin Lachance
Village of Carmacks
P.O. Box 113
Carmacks, YT Y0B 1C0 via email: mayor@carmacks.ca

Dear Chief Blackjack and Mayor Lachance,

RE: Health Infrastructure in Carmacks

Thank you for your letter regarding the Carmacks Health Centre and the health services provided to the community.

With respect to replacement needs, several health centres across Yukon have been identified as requiring significant investment and, in some cases, full replacement based on their age, overall condition, and associated risks. The Department of Health and Social Services is working to balance these needs within current fiscal realities, which requires prioritization across the territory. We appreciate your interest in replacing the Carmacks Health Centre, built in 1984, and appreciate its importance to the community.

Minister Bellmore has also raised these issues with me, in her role as MLA for Carmacks. At her request, we visited staff of Health and Social Services in Carmacks to see their offices and hear their concerns and suggestions directly.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss health and social priorities in your community, including the concerns and priorities mentioned in your joint letter, and to talk about how to meet the needs of the community.

Sincerely,

Hon. Brad Cathers
Minister of Health and Social Services

cc: Hon. Currie Dixon, Premier
Hon. Cory Bellmore, Minister of Community Services

Village of Carmacks
CAO Report
Date: July 17, 2026

To: Mayor and Council
From: Blake Rogers, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Important Dates/Events

- **Joint Council Meeting:** July 29, 2026
- **Next Regular Council Meeting:** August 4, 2026

Day-to-day operations (Ongoing)

- Familiarization with key projects, files, and systems
- Participation in firehall O&M assessment with senior staff

Meetings & Correspondence

- Emergency preparedness – flood watch & response coordination (Ongoing)
- Meetings and correspondence with Village residents (Ongoing)
- Department Management Roundtable (July 8)
- In-Person Meeting with Director and Manager of Yukon Parks – Whitehorse (July 13)
- In-Person Meeting with Deputy Minister of Community Services - Whitehorse (July 13)
- In-Person Meeting with AYC Executive Director – Whitehorse (July 14)
- Initial discussion with TD Branch Manager (July 15)
- Initial discussion with Director of the Yukon Water Board (July 16)
- Meeting with Manager (Properties), Yukon Highways & Public Works (July 16)
- AYC Stakeholder Analysis RE: Land Development Strategies (July 17)

Projects

- Finalization of VoC Council Strategic Plan (Draft – 3rd Edition): **Complete**
- Review of LSCFN & VoC Emergency Plans & Recommendations for closer alignment: *Ongoing*
- Enhancing VoC communication tools & structures: *Ongoing*
- Follow-up on Animal Care and Control initiatives: *Ongoing*
- Research on mortgage and loan policies to assist with HAF uptake: *Ongoing*
- Exploration of landfill schedule extension: *Ongoing*
- Advocating for more office space in the Village and managing VoC leases: *Ongoing*

Good afternoon,

I am writing from the Strathy Language Unit at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. We are assembling a corpus of texts from the Yukon for the purpose of language study, including research for a new dictionary of Canadian English. We are interested in including content from the Village of Carmacks Council meeting minutes in the corpus, and we hope you will consider this invitation to participate.

The Strathy Language Unit conducts and supports research on Canadian English. One way that we do this is to create corpora – representative collections of language samples – which we then use to study issues such as how a word has changed over time or how a grammatical structure differs between formal and informal writing. Our primary corpus, the Strathy Corpus of Canadian English, contains publications spanning 1980-2010 and includes contributions from authors such as Margaret Atwood and Robertson Davies along with a diverse range of periodicals from across the country.

We are in the process of creating an updated corpus focused on the last twenty-five years. In order for the corpus to be inclusive of the diversity of English throughout the country, we plan to focus on particular regions to ensure that they are represented, and we are starting by creating a subcorpus of the Yukon. The Yukon subcorpus will be used for general language research and will also be consulted in the creation of a new Canadian English Dictionary. The dictionary project is spearheaded by the Society for Canadian English – a nonprofit consortium that includes the Strathy Language Unit, Editors Canada and the English Language Lab at the University of British Columbia.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have. If you are interested in contributing to the corpus, please see the attached contract that outlines how your content will be protected. If you are comfortable proceeding, please fill out the form indicating the content you would like to share, sign it, and send it to back me.

We hope to work with you on building a new Canadian English corpus and ensuring that the Yukon is represented!

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of our invitation.

Best,

Fred Hook
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Kingston, ON

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