

YSPOR Support Unit’s External Mid-term Evaluation Recommendations and Action Plan

The Yukon Strategy for Patient Oriented Research Support Unit (YSPOR) undertook its mid-term evaluation during the end of 2023 and beginning of 2024. The evaluation was completed by MNP Inc with the final report provided in May 2024. The overall report was positive with the evaluation team stating that:

“Evaluation participants, including Yukon First Nations, expressed a general appreciation for YSPOR, noting a desire for YSPOR to continue to facilitate health research in the Yukon. Stakeholders and Yukon First Nations affirmed that YSPOR had helped build capacity; facilitated the development of relationships across the sector; and is working towards helping governments improve health outcomes for their citizens. Even though YSPOR is a new organization, momentum has been gained, with participants recognizing the need to continue to build upon program successes and to continuously improve existing functions and processes to further achieve stated objectives.”*

*Stakeholders in the evaluation process included YSPOR staff, health system partners, people with lived experience

The final report included opportunities to refine and improve in five specific areas.

1. Refine YSPOR governance.
2. Re-cast performance measures and outcomes
3. Improve supports for People with Lived Experience (PWLE)
4. Clarify roles and responsibilities.
5. Continue to increase Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing in YSPOR processes and functions.

Recommendation	Response (Agree or Disagree)	Action Plan	Responsibility	Timeline
1. Refine YSPOR governance	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build a co-chair model for the Oversight Committee (OC) and determine criteria to evaluate the model after 12 months. - Continue to review and revise terms of reference on an annual basis to clarify how OC members can best support the work of YSPOR, both during meetings and in their organizational roles. - In partnership with Yukon Government Health and Social Services (HSS), determine the best mechanism(s) for HSS OC representatives to be fully supported to make real-time decisions. 	Scientific Director (with Oversight Committee)	January 2025

2. Re-cast performance measures and outcomes	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refine aims and draft new performance measures with outcomes, including targets where possible. - Formalize process for review, analysis, and reporting of performance measures and document in YSPOR policy. 	Policy and Evaluation lead	November 2024
3. Improve supports for People with Lived Experience (PWLE)	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize regular (every 6 weeks) gatherings of PWLE to improve opportunities for connection, training/ learning, providing input into identifying research priorities. - Create/ update policies and procedures for PWLE in plain language. Include: onboarding processes, communications plans, and recognition policies. Consider sharing documents publicly. - Update resources about YSPOR for PWLE that are appropriate for different audiences. Include an overview and key definitions, support resources, what YSPOR offers, examples of what we have done, and Frequently Asked Questions. - Share impact of PWLE on success of projects through website and other channels. - Increase communications about training offerings and projects (including national projects) directly to PWLE network. - Promote YSPOR's convening role by offering facilitation of bridge-style events that privilege the voices of PWLE. 	Health Policy and Data lead and Operations Manager	June 2025
4. Clarify roles and responsibilities	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all role and responsibility questions are answered accurately and clearly on the YSPOR About Us page. - Use multiple communications mediums to highlight what YSPOR does and YSPOR's key partners. - Highlight how Junior Researchers doing research builds health research capacity in the Yukon and advances YSPOR's training mandate. - Ensure all YSPOR staff are comfortable communicating about YSPOR (e.g. vision, differentiating between facilitating and conducting research, clarifying how the Health Research Chair role at YukonU works in partnership with YSPOR, and how the Canadian Institute of Health Research and in-kind funding supports YSPOR operations). 	Scientific Director and YSPOR team	October 2024

<p>5. Continue to increase Indigenous Ways of knowing, being, and doing in YSPOR processes and functions</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome conversations with Yukon First Nations sharing gaps and research ideas. - Continue to focus on building trust and relationships with Yukon First Nations and learning and applying guidance shared by Indigenous partners. - Continue to actively support hiring of Indigenous staff. - If requested, offer support for the development of a Yukon Network Environments for Indigenous Health Research (NEIHR). - Support removal of barriers in university and research processes as able. - Work in partnership with Yukon First Nations to help researchers meaningfully collaborate with Yukon First Nations. - Provide funding for OCAP training for recipients of YSPOR funding. - Continue to advocate for the decolonization of university and research processes. - If invited, attend First Nation-hosted meetings or gatherings. - Continue devoting resources to communities and ensure that YSPOR has a presence in and supports all interested Yukon communities. - Honour the culture of First Nations on whose territories work is taking place. 	<p>YSPOR team</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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