

Commissioner  
of Yukon

# Annual Report

## 2021-2022



April 01, 2021 to  
March 31, 2022

# Report produced by the Office of the Commissioner of Yukon August 2022



**Commissioner of Yukon**

English

**Dādidī Nenh doge Ts'āde et'ē**

Tagish

Leader of this Land

**Nihānjit jēje cho nādhāt**

Hän

Big Person (Leader) who stands for us

**Dazhän Kèyea dāw Kwānje**

Southern Tutchone

One who speaks for Crown Land or Territory

**Gamin gūdich dege Yukon ts'í**

Kaska

A Government Spokesperson for the Yukon

**Uhahki Dun Cho Yukon Government**

Northern Tutchone

Big Chief of the Yukon Government

**Government ndoo chit nilii**

Gwich'in

A Government Spokesperson for the Yukon

**Yukon Gamman Sháade Háni**

Tlingit

Head of Yukon Government

**xaskeey iin xah hq̄heey**

Upper Tanana

One who speaks on behalf of the Leaders

**Commissaire du Yukon**

French

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# Commissioner's remarks



(Photo by Tamera Johnson)

## Dear Yukoners,

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Yukon to illustrate the events and activities that took place between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022. In preparing this report, my third, what stood out was the almost even split between virtual and in-person aspects of my work (speeches, congratulatory messages and attendance at events). You can see the numbers and the various events on page 5. On pages 10 to 17 of this report, you will find more information on special projects organized and events attended.

The last year was one of learning to live with COVID-19 while still ensuring I continue to fulfill my mandate. Thank you to everyone in the Yukon for keeping our territory safe.

Taylor House has now reopened to the public. Please drop by at 412 Main Street and say hello.

Enjoy this report and do not hesitate to contact my office for any questions. You can also visit our website and Facebook page.

Yours truly,

*Angélique Bernard*

Commissioner of Yukon

# Interesting facts

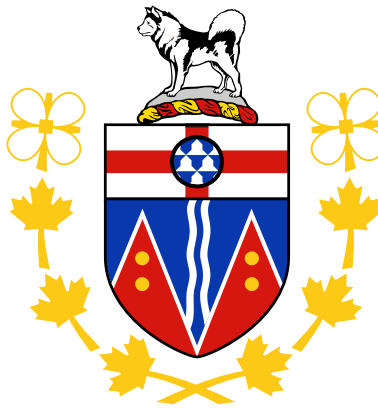
## from the Office of the Commissioner of Yukon

**The Office of the Commissioner of Yukon used their Facebook page to keep readers informed with regular posts:**

- Monday Award recipients;
- Tuesday Book Review (92 books);
- Jubilee Fridays; and
- Information on various important days, weeks and months relating to the Commissioner of Yukon's pillars of family, education, creativity and civic pride.

**Throughout the year, Commissioner Bernard:**

- attended 106 events and get-togethers (57 in-person and 49 online);
- gave 28 speeches and congratulatory messages (16 in-person and 12 online);
- gave 14 interviews to media (nine in French and five in English);
- organized a virtual Levee on January 1, 2022;
- swore in Members of the Legislative Assembly of the three political parties and the Yukon Liberal Cabinet after the 2021 spring elections;
- read the Speech from the Throne to open the spring sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly;
- presented three Orders of Yukon, one Bravery Award, four Public Volunteer Service Awards, 13 Governor General's Academic Medals, four Outstanding Youth Achievement Awards, and one Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers;
- took part in the drive-thru United Way Breakfast;
- took part in the first official National Day for Truth and Reconciliation;
- took part in virtual informal gatherings with the Governor General, Lieutenant Governors and Territorial Commissioners, and attended the Northern and Western Meeting of the Lieutenant Governors and Territorial Commissioners in Vancouver;
- read to seven daycares and day camp groups during the Commissioner's summer reading series;
- presented the Borealis Prize: The Commissioner of Yukon Award for Literary Contribution to Joanna Lilley;
- attended the launch of former Yukon Commissioner Doug Bell's book *Sky Road North*;
- presented 64 Christmas books in French and in English every day during the month of December (online);
- participated in the virtual Indigenous Book Club gatherings hosted by Yukon Public Libraries and the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre;
- participated in a podcast on literature from the BC and Yukon Book Prizes;
- attended the first poppy presentation, organized by the Whitehorse Legion;
- helped create a promotional video on the Order of Yukon;
- wrote five columns in French on the events of the Office of the Commissioner of Yukon for *l'Aurore boréale* (May 2021, September 2021, November 2021, January 2022, and March 2022);
- assented to 19 bills in the Legislative Assembly;
- signed 136 Orders in Council; and
- signed 10 proclamations.



## The Honorable Angélique Bernard, Commissioner of Yukon, is currently Honorary Patron or Honorary Member of the following organizations:

1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group  
2685 Yukon Regiment - Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps  
551 Whitehorse Lions - Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron  
Arctic Inspiration Prize  
Arctic Winter Games (2020)  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yukon  
Child Development Centre  
Commissionaires Victoria, The Islands and Yukon  
Dawson City Museum Society  
Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, Canada  
ElderActive Recreation Association  
Food Bank Society of Whitehorse  
Friends of the Whitehorse Library  
Girl Guides of Canada - Yukon District  
Guild Hall (40th season)  
NGO Hub Steering Committee  
Opportunities Yukon (formerly Challenge Disability Resource Group)  
RCMP Veterans' Association - Yukon Division  
Rotary Club of Whitehorse (91)  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 254 Whitehorse  
Royal Heraldry Society of Canada (BC/Yukon Branch)  
Scouts Yukon BC & Yukon Council  
Special Olympics Yukon  
St. John Society (British Columbia and Yukon)  
The Great Trail  
Yukon Historical and Museums Association  
Yukon Transportation Museum



# Event photos



Yukon Service Pin given to the Hootalinqua Volunteer Fire Department



Filipino Independence Day



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yukon's Big Squeeze lemonade stand event

# Event photos



Commissioner's August picnic



Opening of CSSC Mercier



Mount Lorne Volunteer Fire Department 25th anniversary



# Event photos



Lancieux – Whitehorse Sister program



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



Northern and Western  
Meeting of the Lieutenant  
Governors and Territorial  
Commissioners

# Guest Reader Program

From April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, 116 stories were posted on the Commissioner of Yukon's Facebook page.

The goal of the program was to promote early literacy, reading, and engaging in other literacy-related activities by inviting members from the community to read their favourite children's book.

Some of the participants included lieutenant governors (as far away as the Isle of Man), members from non-governmental organizations, the Whitehorse Fire Chief, the Chief of the Delta Police Department, politicians, consuls general and authors. A few dogs also made an appearance.

We had stories read in English, French, Portuguese and a little bit of Cree.

Thank you to everyone who participated and especially to the various publishers and editors who allowed us to post the stories online. And thank you to the authors who are continuing to send videos of their new books for us to post online.



Michael Gates, Yukon story laureate

We also asked participants to send us pictures of their favourite places to read; 23 people took part.



Commissioner Bernard



Vanessa Canevaro



# Little Free Library and Reference Library

In June 2021, the Commissioner inaugurated the Little Free Library on the corner of Main Street and Fifth Avenue.

Thank you to Elena Joss for the beautiful rendition of Taylor House and thank you to everyone who has been using our Little Free Library to leave a book and take a book.



In October 2021, the Commissioner of Yukon launched the Reference Library available to the public.

More than 285 books and documents dating from 1894 to newly released books are available for research or personal interest.

There is a space on the second floor of Taylor House for people to sit and read. The collection of documents on a variety of topics reflect the rich history and diversity of perspectives that have shaped the Yukon.

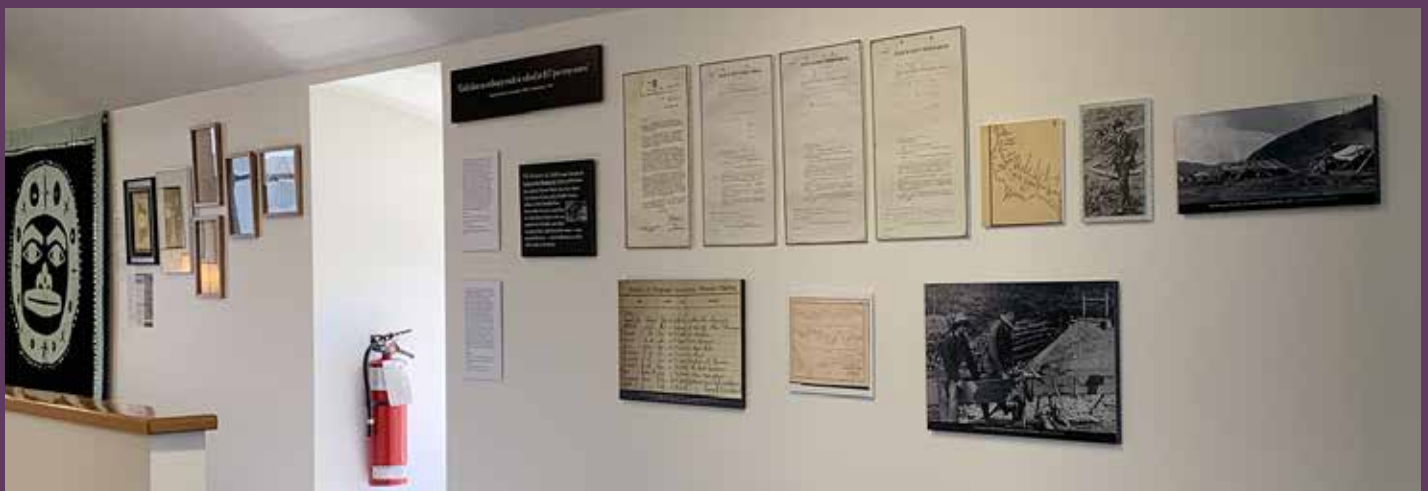


# 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of gold on Bonanza Creek

To celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of gold on Bonanza Creek in the Yukon, the Commissioner's office organised activities over the course of the summer.

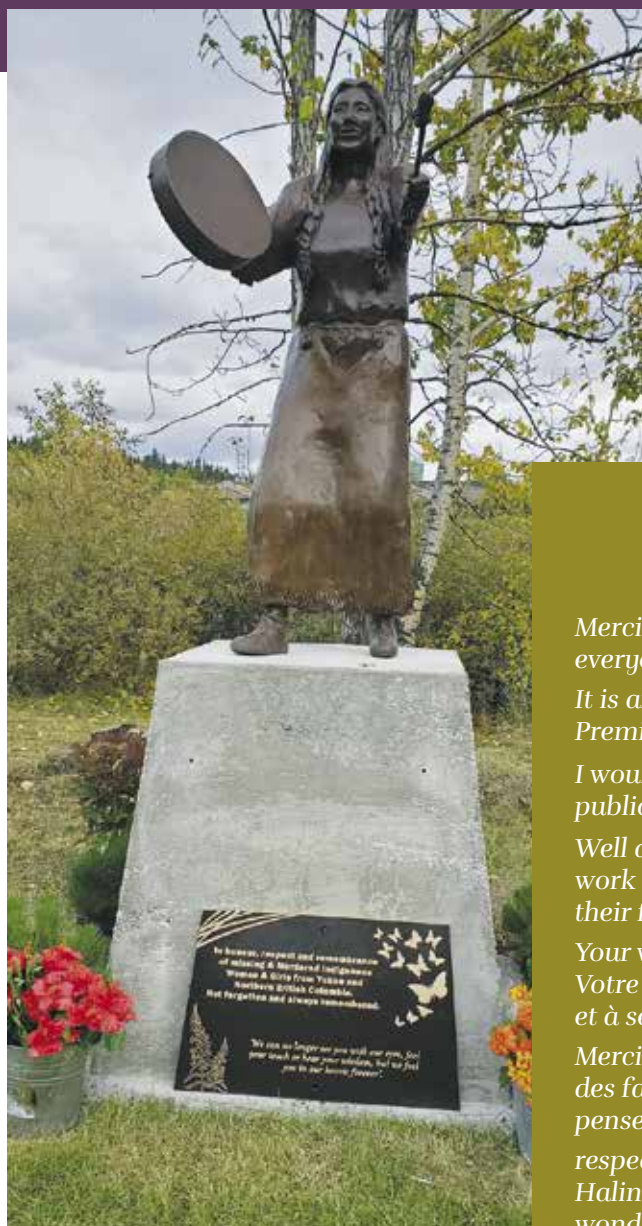
A bilingual colouring book was locally created in the Yukon. The text was written by the Office of the Commissioner of Yukon and the illustrations were done by Andrew Sharp.

An exhibit of photos and articles from the discovery of gold on Bonanza Creek in the Yukon were on display on the second floor of the Taylor House. The emphasis of the exhibit was on the role and participation of the First Nations in the discovery.





# Finding Peace Commemoration Project



On September 17, 2021, the Commissioner of Yukon was invited by the Yukon local project advisory committee for the finding peace commemoration project to attend and say a short speech at the public commemoration and the unveiling of the monument in memory of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

## Unveiling of MMIWG statue - September 17 at Rotary Peace Park

*Merci et bienvenue à toutes et à tous. Thank you and welcome everyone.*

*It is an honour to join you today à partir des terres traditionnelles de la Première Nation des Kwanlin Dün et du Conseil des Ta'an Kwäch'än.*

*I would like to thank the organizers for the invitation to attend today's public commemoration ceremony.*

*Well done to all the partners who came together in October 2019 to work on a lasting monument and memorial to honour the victims and their families.*

*Your work will help families heal, share feelings and connect. Votre travail va aider les familles à guérir, à partager leurs sentiments et à se rapprocher.*

*Merci à l'artiste Halin de Repentigny d'avoir transcrit les contributions des familles dans une magnifique œuvre. Quand vous la regardez, pensez aux façons dont vous pouvez soutenir, vous occuper, écouter, respecter et honorer les gens qui vous entourent. Thank you to the artist Halin de Repentigny for capturing the contributions of families in this wonderful work. As you admire it, think about how you can support, care for, listen, respect and honour people around you.*

*A special thank you to the families for your involvement in this project.*

*I raise my hands to all of you. Gunáchéesh, Massi cho, Shāw níthān, merci, thank you.*

# Daisy Mason Wellness Fund

On September 23, 2021, the Commissioner of Yukon, the Bishop of the Anglican Church and the Daisy Mason Wellness Fund Advisory Committee presented the first ever Daisy Mason Wellness Fund to Edna Mitander.



The Daisy Mason Wellness Fund is intended to promote wellness on an individual or group basis within the Yukon and provides financial assistance to First Nation residents who are wanting to take or provide wellness, health or personal growth workshops.

This Wellness Fund was created out of the Skookum Jim Trust Fund that was set up in 1905 to provide for his daughter Daisy and her future children. Daisy died in 1938 without children. In accordance with Skookum Jim's will, the money then went back into the trust to support Yukon First Nations.

# Legion of Honour of France

On October 21, 2021, the Commissioner of Yukon had the honour of being the Master of Ceremony for the presentation of the National Order of the Legion of Honour (France) to Joseph Novak, from Whitehorse, by General Benoît Puga, Grand Chancellor of the National Order of the Legion of Honour.



The Commissioner of Yukon then had the pleasure of hosting the French delegation for lunch at Taylor House.



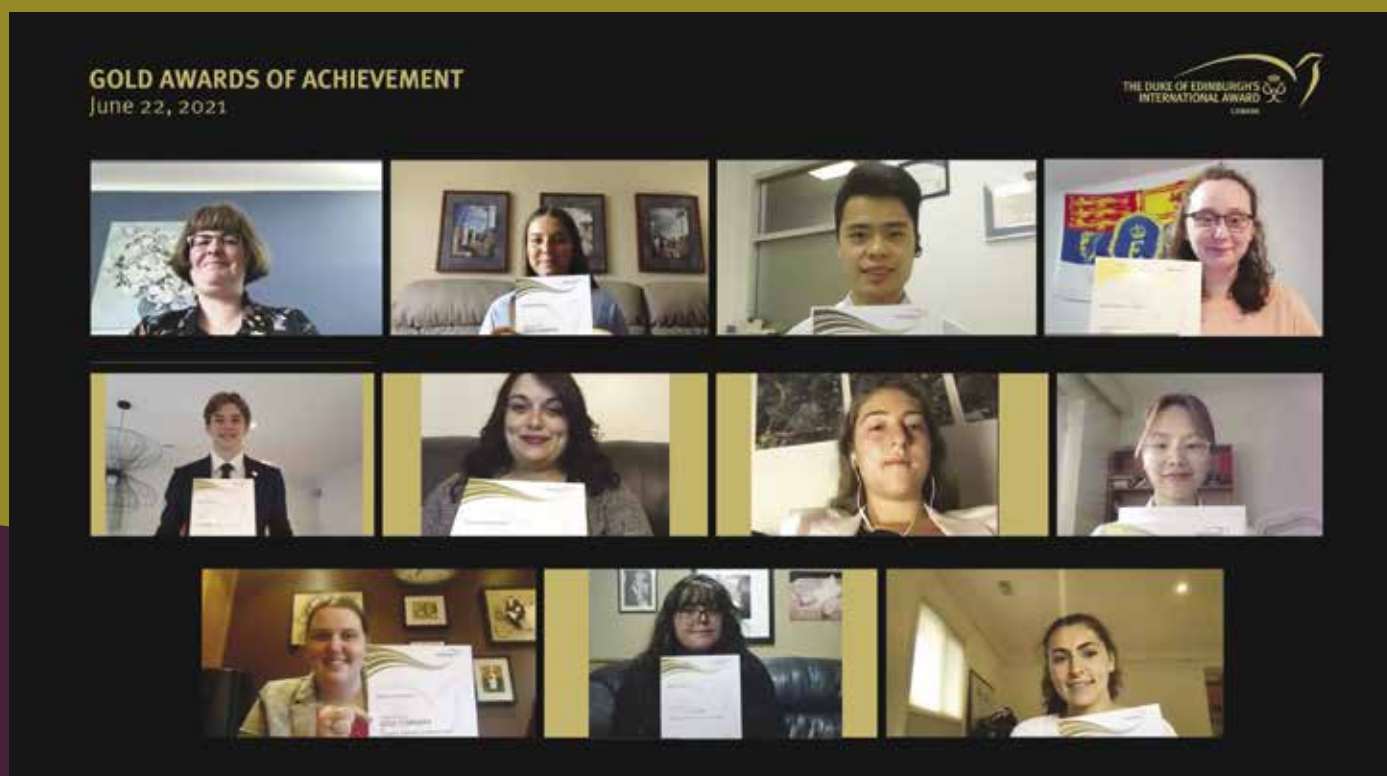
From left to right: Madam Isabelle Puga, Angélique Bernard, Commissioner of Yukon, Nicolas Baudouin, Consul General to France in Vancouver, Luc Aubert, aide-de-camp of General Puga, General Benoît Puga, Grand Chancellor of the National Order of the Legion of Honour and Erik Hougen, Honourary French Consul in Whitehorse.



# Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Awards Ceremony



On June 22, 2021, the Commissioner of Yukon had the honour and pleasure of presiding over the first Virtual Gold Award Ceremony in French of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Canada.





# Queen's Platinum Jubilee

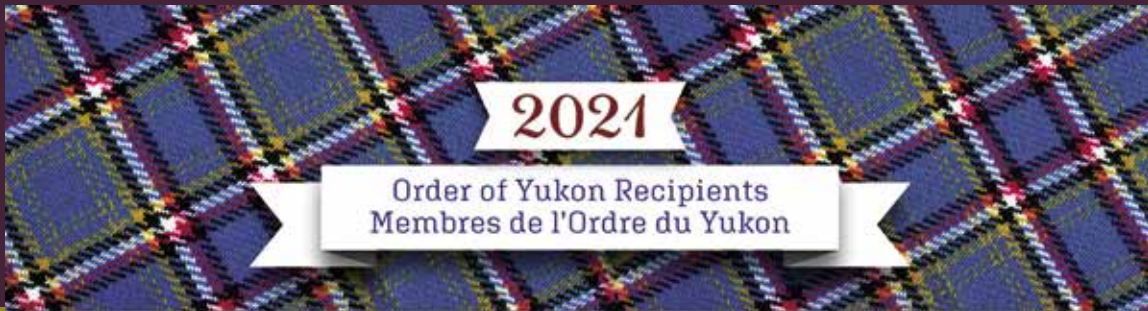
To celebrate the launch of the celebrations of 70 years on the throne of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the Yukon in February 2022, the Jubilee flag was raised at the Main Administration Building on Second Avenue on Sunday, February 6 at sunrise and remained up for the month of February.



On February 7, the virtual exhibition *The Royal Family in the Yukon* was available to view on the Commissioner of Yukon's website.

The Jubilee Friday posts on Facebook were launched on February 10. All throughout 2022, the Commissioner of Yukon will post information about Queen Elizabeth II on the Commissioner's Facebook page.

# Order of Yukon recipients for 2021



David Mossop



Dr. David Storey



Peter G. Menzies

Chancellor/Chancelière  
Angélique Bernard

