

State of the City Address - June 17, 2026



WHERE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

yorkton.ca

Mayor Aaron Kienle



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We gather today on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional homeland of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakata, and Lakota Nations, and the Metis people. We recognize and honour the generations of Indigenous peoples who have cared for this land since time beyond memory, and who continue to guide us through their teachings and stewardship.

We are grateful for this land that sustains us. That gratitude calls us not only to words, but to action, to walk gently, to listen deeply, and to learn continually.

As we begin this meeting, let us ground ourselves in the same spirit of respect and humility. Let us create a space where reflection leads to understanding, where accountability strengthens trust, and where our commitment to one another, and to this community, guides our words and actions.

May our presence here reflect gratitude and care. May we remember that this land is not ours to own, but a relative we are entrusted to look after. We thank Indigenous peoples for their wisdom, their resilience, and their willingness to walk forward with us in collaboration.



TONIGHT'S ROADMAP

1. The foundation
2. Five pillars: where good things happen
3. Progress and impact
4. What comes next
5. Your questions



EVERY GOOD THING STARTS WITH A STRONG FOUNDATION

Responsible planning turns community priorities into action





2026 BUDGET

\$70.91M total budget

\$60.11M operating budget

\$10.8M capital budget

3.85% tax increase

- 2.75% operating
- 1.10% capital





2026 BUDGET

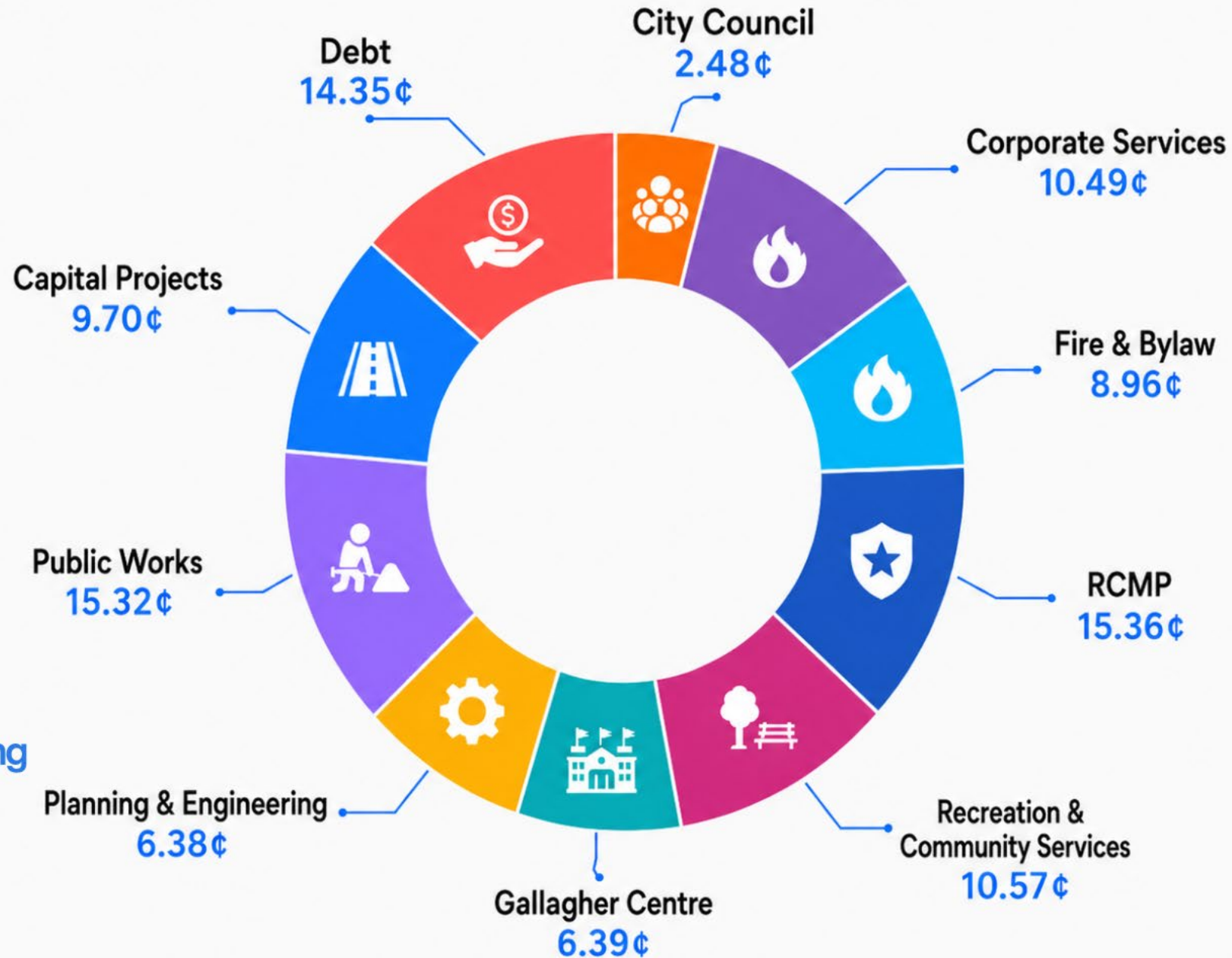
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WHERE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

Tonight's State of the City is organized around five pillars — the ways we're building Yorkton, together.



WHERE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

Good Things Happen When:

- Our City Works
- We Invest for the Long Term
- We Welcome Growth
- We Show Up for People
- We Build the Future

Each pillar includes real examples, real impacts, and what's next.



The background of the image is a clear blue sky. In the upper right corner, there are dark silhouettes of tree branches. In the lower half, there are green evergreen trees. On the right side, a tall, grey water tower is visible, with the word 'YORKTON' written in blue capital letters on its upper section.

GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN OUR CITY WORKS

SERVICES PEOPLE COUNT ON — EVERY DAY

KEEPING YORKTON MOVING THROUGH WINTER

DELIVERING A CORE SERVICE ACROSS THE CITY



❄️ SNOW CLEARING COVERAGE:

- 172 km of roads
- 37 km of back alleys
- Snow hauling can continue into **March and April**

\$ A MAJOR ANNUAL INVESTMENT:

- **\$1.35M** average annual cost
- **\$1.14M** spent already in 2026
- **\$100K+** per full snow removal pass

👥 WHY THIS MATTERS:

- Keeps residents, businesses, and emergency services moving
- Costs vary significantly depending on winter conditions

BACK TO BASICS: ROADS, SIDEWALKS & CURBS

INVESTING IN THE EVERYDAY INFRASTRUCTURE THAT KEEPS YORKTON MOVING



/// ASPHALT PAVING PROGRAM:

- **16 street segments** planned (24,270 m²) **~19% more than 2025**
- **Focus:** areas rated “very poor”
- **Budget: \$1.5M** (includes \$500K capital reserves + **\$1.0M** operating)

/// CONCRETE REPLACEMENT:

- **Sidewalk scan:** SCI 48/100
- **Budget: \$880K**
- **Focus:** reduce trip hazards + coordinate with paving/water/sewer work

/// WHY THIS MATTERS:

- Better routes for deliveries, customers, and staff commuting
- More predictable maintenance reduces disruption and long-term cost



GROWING A GREENER YORKTON

1,038

trees and shrubs planted
from 2022–2025



Building shade, stronger neighbourhoods,
and a healthier community for the future

THREE CARTS. LESS WASTE. LONGER LANDFILL LIFE.

MAKING IT EASIER TO DIVERT MORE MATERIAL



RECYCLING:

- Blue carts have helped roughly **double recycling volumes**
- About **1,000 tonnes diverted** annually

ORGANICS:

- About **1,000 tonnes** of grass, leaves and garden waste diverted
- Approximately **25% of residential waste** redirected to compost

WHY THIS MATTERS:

- Extends the life of the landfill
- Reduces methane-producing material
- Turns organics into useful cover and capping material



TRAINING FOR WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

3 specialized response areas

- Medical First Response
- High-Angle Rope Rescue
- Water and Thin-Ice Rescue



Expanded training helps Yorkton firefighters respond safely, support local EMS, and prepare for emergencies involving residents, industry and open water.

OUR CITY AT WORK. EVERY DAY.

THE TEAMS AND SERVICES THAT KEEP YORKTON MOVING



Thank you to our dedicated City of Yorkton Teams

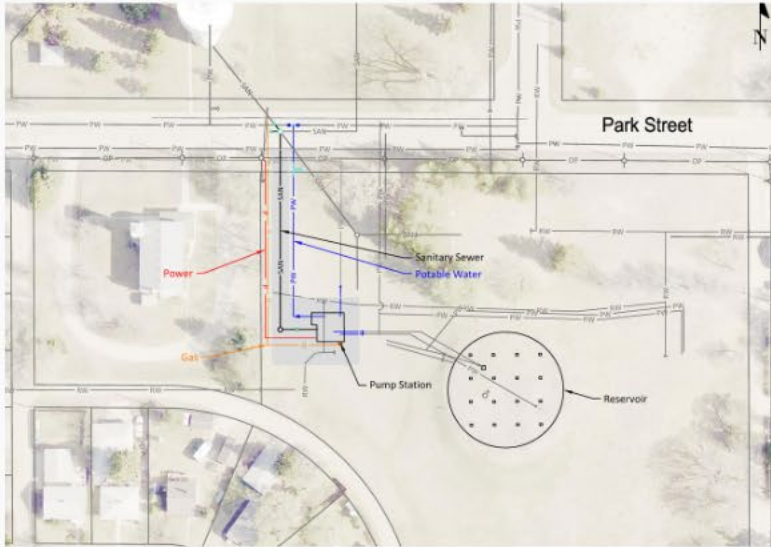
A blue-tinted photograph of a Yorkton water tower and trees. The water tower is a tall, cylindrical structure with a rounded top, and the word "YORKTON" is written in dark letters on its upper section. It is partially obscured by the large, white text of the main headline. In the foreground, there are several dark green evergreen trees. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The overall image has a clean, professional look with a monochromatic blue color scheme.

GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN WE INVEST FOR THE LONG TERM

*PROTECTING WHAT WE HAVE AND PREPARING
FOR WHAT COMES NEXT*

PARK STREET RESERVOIR AND PUMPING STATION

PARK STREET RESERVOIR: RESTORING WATER STORAGE FOR RELIABILITY



WHAT WE DID:

- Rehabilitation and commissioning are returning the reservoir to service
- Restores infrastructure that had been out of operation for more than a decade



STRENGTHENING THE SYSTEM:

- Adds more than 4.5 million litres of potable water storage
- Improves redundancy and operational flexibility



WHY THIS MATTERS:

- Supports reliable water service for residents and businesses
- Strengthens emergency response and future growth capacity



INVESTING IN EQUIPMENT FOR CHANGING EMERGENCY NEEDS

TRUCK NORRIS

is ready for wildland response

Provides backup support for frontline fire apparatus



- Designed to respond to grass, brush and bush fires
- Continues long-term renewal of the Fire Department fleet

INVESTING IN THE PLACES PEOPLE USE

RENEWING RECREATION ASSETS FOR FAMILIES, ATHLETES, AND THE COMMUNITY

ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS WATER PARK



Modern glass-media filtration and UV treatment improve water quality, reduce chemical use and support more efficient operations.

Total:
\$1,537,910.91

HERITAGE HEIGHTS PICKLEBALL



The site was renewed and expanded with three dedicated pickleball courts, supporting drop-in play, club activities and tournaments.

Total: \$321,972

KINSMEN ARENA



A renewed slab, boards, glass, seating and ice systems protect reliable access to community ice.

Total:
\$4,454,058

SPRAY PARKS



Three locations provide free summer recreation: Silver Heights Park, Ukrainian Pioneer Park, & Weinmaster Park.

\$200,000 proposed for Tupper Avenue in 2027.

WHY IT MATTERS: Modern, reliable amenities support recreation, quality of life and community connection.

HOPKINS LAKE + JAYCEE BEACH

MOVING A COMMUNITY VISION FROM FEASIBILITY TO DESIGN



WHAT WE LEARNED:

- Recreational use remains **technically viable**
- Feasibility work identified a **practical path forward**



WHAT COMES NEXT:

- **Refining** design, scope, cost and potential phasing
- **Preparing for funding, engagement** and Council decisions



WHY THIS MATTERS:

- Reimagines an underused community asset
- Could create a new destination for residents and visitors

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GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN WE WELCOME GROWTH

MAKING IT EASIER TO INVEST, BUILD, AND EXPAND



YORKTON, THROUGH AN INVESTOR'S EYES

AN OUTSIDE LOOK AT YORKTON'S COMPETITIVE STRENGTHS

*IMK Strategies – Sectoral Investment
Location Benchmarking (Jan 2026)*

A REGIONAL HUB AND SASKATCHEWAN'S THIRD-LARGEST TRADING HUB

- Efficient, pragmatic business environment
- Established strength in agri-processing
- Strong highway and rail connectivity
- Industrial land, workforce and innovation potential

BUSINESS MOMENTUM

(APR 2025 – MAR 2026)



A 12-MONTH LOOK
AT LICENSING,
CONSTRUCTION
AND INVESTMENT
ACTIVITY



BUSINESS MOMENTUM

(APR 2025 – MAR 2026)

122

new business licence
applications —
all categories



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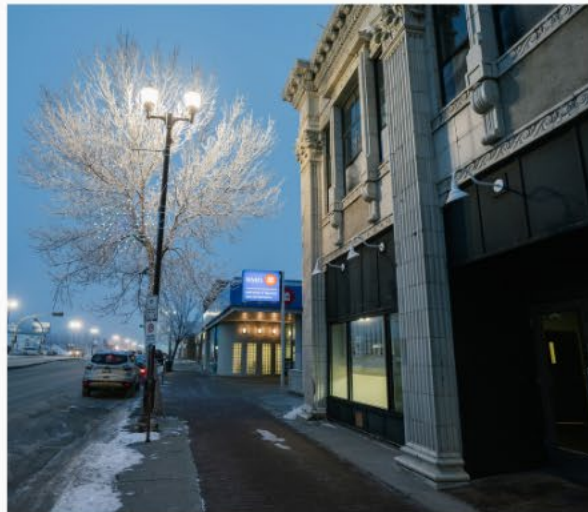
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29

commercial building
permits issued

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122

new business licence
applications —
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29

commercial building
permits issued

\$15.74
MILLION

in commercial building
permit value



BUSINESS MOMENTUM

(APR 2025 – MAR 2026)

A 12-MONTH LOOK
AT LICENSING,
CONSTRUCTION
AND INVESTMENT
ACTIVITY

122

new business licence
applications —
all categories

29

commercial building
permits issued

\$15.74
MILLION

in commercial building
permit value

1,040

active business licences
(as of Mar 2026)



INCENTIVES THAT SUPPORT REINVESTMENT

**31 BUSINESSES
/\$251K INVESTED** since 2021



2025 RESULTS:

- **12 façade and site-improvement** approvals
- **3 new commercial** building abatements approved
- **3 vacant-building** abatements approved
- 2 vacant properties **moved into construction**



AVAILABLE IN 2026:

- Façade and Site Improvements
- Commercial Building Tax Abatement
- Vacant Commercial Building Tax Abatement
- Residential Construction Incentive
- Rental Housing Incentive

CLEAR DIRECTION FOR DOWNTOWN REINVESTMENT

UPDATING THE DOWNTOWN AND WEST BROADWAY PLAN FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS



WHY UPDATE IT:

The existing plan dates to 2005 and no longer reflects current market conditions or redevelopment needs.



WHAT IT WILL GUIDE:

Land use, zoning, public spaces and incremental reinvestment.



WHAT'S NEXT:

Draft plan for stakeholder input, with completion targeted for this summer.



A MODERN GATEWAY FOR YORKTON

13,533

aircraft movements in 2025

SUPPORTING AVIATION, BUSINESS AND REGIONAL SERVICE:



- Safer, more efficient terminal operations
- Supports regional, medical and emergency service
- Creates a stronger first impression of Yorkton
- Additional \$138,000 funding from provincial government for new airfield approach lights

ENABLING NEW GROWTH WITH WATER SERVICING & REDUNDANCY

SULLY AVE + HIGHWAY 9 WATERMAIN EXTENSIONS



EXTENDING SERVICE:

- **780 m added** along Sully Avenue
- **960 m added** along Highway 9

BUILDING REDUNDANCY:

- Future phase will **connect the extensions into a full loop**
- **Supports development** near Highway 9 and Grain Millers Road

WHY IT MATTERS:

- Reliable water infrastructure prepares land for development
- Added redundancy strengthens service for major users

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GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN WE SHOW UP FOR PEOPLE

CONNECTION, ACCESS, AND BELONGING

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE RIGHT SUPPORTS

MAKING COMMUNITY SERVICES EASIER TO FIND, ACCESS AND NAVIGATE



SOCIAL PRESCRIBING:

Health professionals can refer older adults to a Community Connector who links them with local programs, services and non-clinical supports.



REMOVING BARRIERS TO ACCESS:

A dedicated coordinator brings agencies together, while a new resource guide helps residents find food, shelter, housing, harm-reduction resources and other supports.



BUILDING CONNECTIONS:

Community Safety Officers are increasing their presence in high-activity areas, helping build relationships and connect vulnerable residents with appropriate services.

WHY IT MATTERS: Better coordination strengthens connection, access and community safety.

DREAM BROKER + YORKTON SPORTS BANK

REMOVING BARRIERS TO SPORT AND RECREATION

Dream Brokers



PROGRAM SUPPORT:

- \$21,839.48 in Dream Broker funding distributed in 2025-26
- 264 children and youth supported



EQUIPMENT ACCESS:

- 155 Sports Bank visits in 2024
- 152 visits recorded in 2025



WHY IT MATTERS:

- Helps families overcome program and equipment costs
- Gives more children and youth the chance to participate, belong and build confidence

WEAR YOUR YORKTON PRIDE

OFFICIAL CITY APPAREL, DESIGNED TO CELEBRATE WHERE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN



MADE FOR YORKTON:

- Designed by staff committee
- Produced locally, right here in Yorkton



A GROWING COLLECTION:

- The original collection launched in December 2025
- New pieces will continue to build on the collection



TONIGHT'S FEATURE:

- The Where Good Things Happen perogy bags are from the latest collection
- One guest tonight will receive a \$200 apparel gift card

Shop the collection at shop.yorkton.ca



LIVING SKIES MUSIC FESTIVAL: A NEW SIGNATURE EVENT FOR YORKTON

AUGUST 14-15

two nights of live music at the
Yorkton Exhibition Grounds

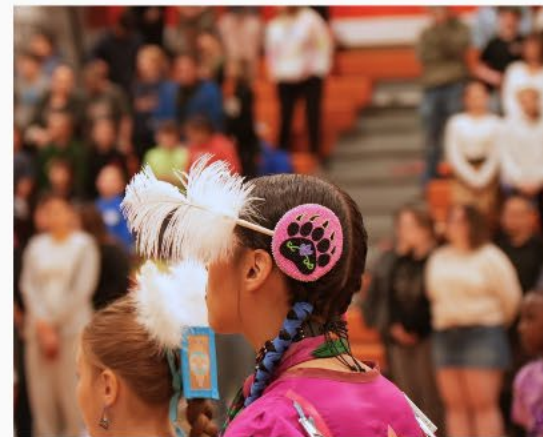
Country night followed by rock night



PROMO CODE: Just for State of the City, use **SOC2026** for up to \$100 off your ticket. Valid through 11:59 PM Friday, June 19.

SHOWING UP FOR YORKTON

CELEBRATING, CONNECTING AND TAKING PART ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY



From festivals and fundraisers to openings, celebrations and community gatherings, we're proud when Yorkton comes together.

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GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN WE BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

*ADVANCING MAJOR PRIORITIES AND BUILDING THE
PARTNERSHIPS TO DELIVER THEM*



A NEW REGIONAL HOSPITAL

\$1.8 MILLION

in the 2026–27 provincial budget to continue pre-design work

A LOWER COMMUNITY SHARE:

- The required municipal contribution has been **reduced from 20% to 10%**
- This will save Yorkton and regional communities millions of dollars

WHY IT MATTERS:

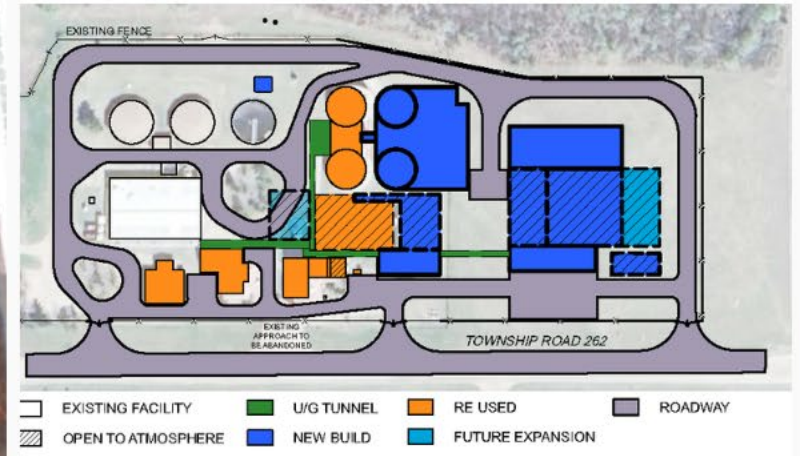
- Modern healthcare for Yorkton and the region
- A major step forward for residents, families and future growth



Thank you to the Government of Saskatchewan for continuing to advance this important regional project.

BUILDING THE CAPACITY YORKTON NEEDS

RENEWING THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TO SUPPORT THE NEXT GENERATION OF GROWTH



THE NEED:

- The existing plant is **nearing the end of its useful life** and operating close to capacity
- Yorkton treats an industrial wastewater load **equivalent to a much larger population**



MOVING TOWARD CONSTRUCTION:

- Project value engineered to **approximately \$204 million**
- \$9 million committed to **move design from 30% to 90%**



WHY IT MATTERS:

- Supports housing, industry and the future regional hospital
- Protects environmental compliance and long-term service reliability

ADVOCATING FOR YORKTON'S PRIORITIES

BUILDING THE FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS MAJOR PROJECTS REQUIRE



PROVINCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Direct meetings in **Regina**
- Support from **Upstream Strategy Group**

FEDERAL RELATIONSHIPS:

- **Advocacy in Ottawa** with Saskatchewan mayors and on a separate trip with senators and ministries
- Support from **SUMMA Strategies**

WHY IT MATTERS:

- Major projects require all orders of government at the table
- Strong relationships help keep Yorkton's priorities visible and moving forward



PUTTING YORKTON ON THE MAP



YORKTON • OTTAWA • EDMONTON • NEW YORK

Building relationships locally, nationally, and globally

BRINGING LEADERS TO YORKTON:

- Mayors' Reel Talk brought municipal and provincial leaders together in our community

TAKING YORKTON'S VOICE OUTWARD:

- Advocacy meetings in Ottawa
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference in Edmonton
- Upcoming United Nations engagement in New York through Yorkton's participation as one of five Canadian communities selected for Local Futures



WHY IT MATTERS: Raises Yorkton's profile and creates relationships, ideas and opportunities that help advance the community

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THANK YOU

YORKTON: WHERE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

yorkton.ca

Mayor Aaron Kienle