



minutes

Yellowknife Search and Rescue Board Meeting

Date: November 18, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM MT

Location: [Google Meet](#)

Present: Amanda Herbert | Tom Girrior | Danielle Wendehorst | Louise Cumming | Nate Charbonneau

Regrets: Jurjen van der Sluijs | Andrea Olayvar-Lowing | Jacqueline Mo

1 Call to Order – 7:05 PM MT

2 Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – October 2025 Approved

- Motion – Tom. Second – Nate. None opposed. Motion carried.

3 Governance

Strategic Planning – Amanda

- It's been at least 3 years since last strategic planning. Nate suggested overnight retreat. Amanda unable to attend overnight. Tom: Last event had facilitator at venue over a weekend as there was funding available. Currently no funding. Tom suggested some training funds could be used.
- Scope of strategic planning: keeping it simple with 3 goals, a 5-year vision, etc. as YKSAR is a small organization. Current Board can have an in-person full-day meeting in early January 2026 and set 6-month priority, and to plan details about the next strategic planning session (venue, facilitator, funding). After the next AGM, the new Board can determine the scope of strategic planning sessions.
- Action Item: Planning session for 1 day, either on January 10 or 11, 2026 – email to be sent to all Board members to check availability. All members at current meeting are available for this weekend.

Proposed Rebrand – Nate

- Wondering if a motion is warranted to make decision about rebranding. Louise would like more time to discuss and suggested the Board discuss this at the one-day January meeting, as



making a decision at current Board meetings have been limited due to time constraints. Group is supportive of discussing this further in January.

- Action Item: Nate requested all members review rebranding proposal prior to January and to bring comments/suggestions.

YKSAR Facebook Account – Nate/Amanda

- Attempts have been made for 3 years; Danielle will attempt one more time. If admin transfer of public Facebook page unsuccessful, YKSAR will create a new page or submit a “Meta Admin Page Dispute”.

4 Command

Deferred to January 2026 meeting.

5 Liaison

SARVAC – Tom

- Bill has now replaced Tom as the NWT representative on the SARVAC Board.
- Fort McPherson is requesting support on starting a Search and Rescue organization. Tom has been working with the community for a year.

RCMP

- No updates from Tom.

6 Safety

Operations Update

- Tom inquired if fire retardant used in past wildfires were a risk to YKSAR searchers. GNWT pamphlets states it is not.
- No further updates.

7 Operations

Training Report and Monthly Call-Out Drill – Tom

- The Fall Basic Searcher – great cohort. Great volunteer response to assist with training. The capacity of YKSAR instructors is increasing. Helpful that the Volunteer Team was also there to register members.
- November call-out drill will be a night-time search.
- December training may occur depending on November participation. Ideas: Lost Person Behaviour or ICS course.
- Motion: Tom would like to put forward a motion from the Board for \$600 in consumables for the Basic Searcher course.



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- Motion – Tom. Second – Louise. None opposed. Motion carried.

Recent Searches – Tom

- No recent searches.

8 Fund Development

Team Update – Amanda

- The Fund Development team met on November 17; 7 members attended. Tori, Emily, and Michelle will work on grant administration.
- The DeBeers report is still not submitted due to issues with trying to submit.
 - Action Item: Amanda will follow up on the DeBeers Report.
- There was discussion at the Fund Development meeting about having two separate teams: a Grant Development team, and a Corporate Fund Development team.
- A letter will be developed to approach businesses/local organizations for in-kind donations.
- Discussion on a promotional video for YKSAR; will reach out to the Information Team.
- Tom: a grant of \$50,000 a year available from the Territorial Development Fund (CIRNAC) – federal funding. Email sent to Amanda.

9 Logistics

Equipment Director's Report – Amanda.

- No update for meeting.

Volunteer Resources – Amanda

- Next Volunteer Resources meeting to take place on November 20, 2025.
- Volunteer hours need to be submitted soon so the Volunteer Team can count hours.

10 Finance

Invoices – Insurance – Louise

- Insurance invoices have been paid.

Bank Balance – Louise

- Current balance: \$29,090.64

11 Information

- No updates.



12 **Next Meeting and Away Dates** – Next meeting to be held January 2026.

Members to upload agenda items onto Google Drive: [YKSAR Board Meetings - Calendar of Agenda and Action Items](#)

13 **Adjournment** – 8:39 PM MT
