



minutes

Yellowknife Search and Rescue Board Meeting

Date: January 11, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM MT
Location: 5018 49th Street

Present: Tom Girrior | Danielle Wendehorst | Jurjen van der Sluijs | Louise Cumming | Andrea Olayvar-Lowing | Jacqueline Mo
Regrets: Amanda Herbert | Nate Charbonneau (on extended leave)

1 Call to Order – 10:36 AM MT

2 Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – November 2025 Approved

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

3 Governance

Ontario Legislature Internship Programme – Danielle

- Per the email from OLIP to the Board on December 11, 2025, OLIP is interested in meeting with YKSAR in person to discuss what we do. They will be in Yellowknife from March 1-6, 2026.
- Danielle is interested in meeting with them; Jurjen suggested sharing with them the GNWT report compiled by MNP LLP to read in advance.
- Action Item: Danielle to potentially set up a meeting.

4 Operations

Training Report and Monthly Call-Out Drill – Tom

- February: Low-angle Rescue Training tentatively planned for February.
- March: Frostbite 55 set for March 21st – the usual checkpoint locations will be very easy to set up.
- May-June: Tom is already looking ahead to the Spring 2026 Basic Searcher.



- Will chat with Arctic Response about WFA – would be beneficial if Arctic Response could offer the course to us both in the spring and the fall.
- Tom will still reach out to the RCMP this year about resuming cold case searches in the summer; would like to resume the Beaulieu search if possible.
- Monthly Callout: Tom to organize for the week after next, amidst travel to Edmonton and Red Deer. It will perhaps be an introduction to SARTopo with Niels, or a field session with Tom that covers our core competencies.
- Tom and Danielle to reach out to Dettah regarding a potential winter training session on Gender-Based Barriers in Searching for Missing People. This is not only to work on reducing gender barriers, but also to give the communities more control over SAR themselves.

Recent Searches – Tom

- No recent searches.

5 Fund Development

City of Yellowknife Grant – Danielle/Jackie

- The City of Yellowknife grant is due on January 19, 2026.
- Danielle and Jackie have both reached out to Tori on Amanda's behalf; Tori is in good shape with the City of Yellowknife grant and just needs a handful of documents from Louise and Jackie.
- Action Item: Danielle and Jackie to review the grant application prior to submission. Danielle to submit the application on behalf of the Board.

De Beers Grant Report

- Jurjen had written the report in September 2025 for Michelle to submit as the De Beers' employee overseeing the grant, but Michelle is no longer with De Beers.
- Do we have another YKSAR member who is currently an employee of De Beers?
- At this point, the best approach is to send the PDF of the report in.
 - Action Item: Jurjen will send the Board the current paperwork for review.
- Jurjen reports that we have already received the full \$8,800 and have spent \$3,884 thus far.
- Moving forward, the Board observed that employee-driven multi-year grants should require more consideration in the future, to avoid the potential headaches that have become a present reality.

YKCF Garry Robinson Grant

- Question for YKCF: are we still taking turns applying for this grant (every other year), like we used to with the Coast Guard Auxiliary?



6 Finance

Financial Snapshot – Louise

- Louise took the Board through a comprehensive review of YKSAR's Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and 26/27 Budget.
- The Board reviewed each line item and provided feedback to Louise.
- Louise to strike out the YKCF grant for now – TBD.
- Member Dues vs. Member Donations – Louise to send Jackie a list to fill in missing information.
 - Action Item: Jackie to complete this.
- Action Item: Tom to check in with Bill on whether YKSAR will keep its ESRI licence.

7 Information

YKSAR Social Media Update – Danielle

- Danielle updated the Board on the status of the Facebook page.
- We will keep using the current public-facing Facebook page for the time being, until a new Information Team is in place.
- Amanda has asked Jackie to send out an email to membership asking for new Information Team volunteers.
 - Action Item: Jackie to complete this.

8 Logistics

Volunteer Resources – Jackie

- The VR Team will be meeting next on January 15, 2026.
- The VR Team will be sending out the 2025 tax letters; will prepare and print for Amanda's signature.

9 Strategic Planning Session

Policy Development – Danielle

- We currently have 4 policies – Member Dues / Criminal Record Check / Age Limit / Vehicle Insurance – and a draft Social Media Policy (unsure if Board ever approved as a full policy).
- Danielle would like to propose additional policies; Tom suggested review SARVAC's existing policies first, to see what we can adopt and adapt for our purposes.
- Potential policies:
 - Reducing Gender Barriers
 - Gender Pronouns
 - Risk Assessment or a General Safety Policy covering scenarios on what happens to a search if we encounter wildlife / danger / wind blowing down trees / lightning / smoke / exposure.



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- That said, some of these scenarios are already covered in the Basic Searcher training, so does it need to be a policy as well?

Truth and Reconciliation and Land Acknowledgments – Danielle

- Are there any Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action related to Search and Rescue? Perhaps in CTAs related to MMIWG?
- Land acknowledgment incorporation suggestions:
 - updating YKSAR's Basic Searcher presentation decks
 - putting them into practice/use at the start of our monthly training sessions/callouts
 - adding a land acknowledgment to YKSAR.ca website.

Rebranding and Merch Discussion – Danielle

- The Board revisited the rebranding discussion. Some discussions/questions raised included:
 - Perhaps not needing a new logo? Gear seems to be what members want most, rather than a total rebrand.
 - Search uniforms vs. YKSAR merch – perhaps new high-vis vests to be handed out only for searches/exercises?
 - Ordering more patches for members to add to their gear?
- The Board discussed perhaps bringing this logo/rebranding question to the next AGM, to seek out a small committee to start looking into rebranding after the AGM, whilst keeping in mind that funding/fundraising is still a priority.

Potential Future Strategic Planning Session/Weekend – Danielle

- The Board discussed a few considerations:
 - Perhaps not just have Board members attend – open it up to the membership?
 - Potentially hiring a facilitator again – but finding facilitators and the funding for one are both hard to find.
- Action Item: The Board will review what we've already done – Jackie to find the last facilitator's after-action report and will recirculate to the Board.

10 Next Meeting and Away Dates – February 10, 2026.

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

11 Adjournment – 1:59 PM MT
