



## **Flood Hazard Mapping Public Engagement**

# **What We Heard: Dawson City and Klondike Valley**

April 2026



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# Background

Flooding is becoming more common in the Yukon due to climate change and associated extreme weather events. The Government of Yukon is working to better understand flooding in the territory to help build safer, more resilient communities.

**This report summarizes the public input on the draft Flood Hazard Maps prepared for the communities of Dawson City and the Klondike Valley in the Traditional Territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH).** The project is being led by the Government of Yukon's Water Science and Stewardship (WSS) branch. The engineering consulting firm, Stantec, was retained by WSS to complete the flood mapping study. Input was sought from community members and staff from TH and Dawson City from August 12 to September 10, 2025.

This 'what we heard' report summarizes feedback and comments we heard regarding the draft maps. Other topics raised during engagement, also summarized in this report, included how the flood hazard data would be used after project completion and potential new approaches for water conditions monitoring and flood event documentation.



# Engagement process

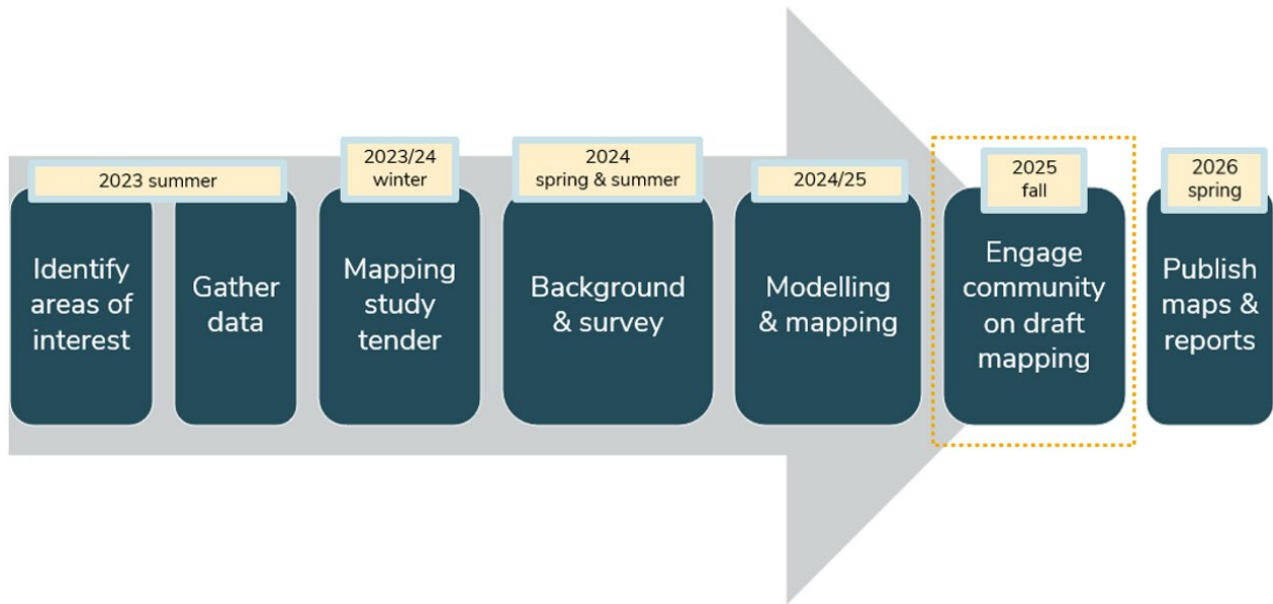
We received feedback from the community through the following engagement methods:

- Online survey from August 12 to September 10, 2025.
- Meetings with municipal and TH staff in August 2025.
- Open house with community members on September 3, 2025.

## Purpose

Engagement was completed to gather input on the draft maps that will help inform updates and improvements to the final maps. This engagement followed earlier meetings with TH and municipal staff and local knowledge holders which informed the study scope and analysis.

**FIGURE 1: PROJECT OVERVIEW** (HIGHLIGHTING STAGE AT WHICH ENGAGEMENT OCURRED)



## How we engaged

We engaged the public using the following:

### Engagement launch

- The Dawson City and Klondike Valley draft flood hazard maps public launch was on August 12, 2025.
- The launch included a [news release](#) on the Government of Yukon's website<sup>1</sup> and social media advertisements.
- The news release and advertisements included information about the project, the public open house date and links to the Yukon Flood Hub website<sup>2</sup>, where the draft maps were published with a survey for online participation.
- The draft maps were shared directly with TH and municipal staff, along with a notification of the on-going public engagement.

### Flood Hub

- The Government of Yukon Flood Hub website was updated on August 12. Visitors to the site could view and download the draft maps, complete the online survey and see details on the in-person project open house planned in Dawson.

### Online survey

- An online public survey was carried out from August 12 to September 10, 2025.

### Open houses

- An in-person presentation to community members was held on September 3, 2025.

### Government notification

- Hard copies of the draft maps were provided to TH and Dawson City municipal staff on August 4-5, 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> [Dawson and Klondike Valley draft maps news release](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Yukon's Flood Hub](#)

## Who responded?

The engagement had the following participation:

- Seven respondents to the survey.
- The open house was attended by 12 community members.

# What we heard

From the survey and open house, we heard comments on several topics. Respondents included those who have knowledge of past flooding because their property was impacted or their job duties relate to flood response.

## Key comments on the draft maps

- Two survey respondents indicated that the maps fit with their experiences.
- One indicated that the maps differ a little from their experience – specifically, that the maps did not appear to accurately capture the direction of flow near their home (i.e. from a highway ditch back towards the river).
- One indicated that the maps differ a lot from their experience – no further description was provided for how the maps differed.
- At the open house, two residents of Henderson’s Corner identified a location where mapped flood extents did not align with 2023 flooding. A similar comment was received during the draft map reviews by YG staff involved in the response to this flooding.

## How respondents will use information from the maps

- Two respondents intend to use the information to increase their readiness for potential future flooding.
- Two respondents indicated they were thinking differently about managing their home/property based on the information.



- One respondent indicated they are considering purchasing overland flood insurance.
- An open house attendee expressed interest, related to their work with the municipality, in getting access to flood hazard data developed in the study as well as recommendations for what the community should do for emergency preparation and management.

## Comments related to conditions monitoring and flood documentation

- One open house attendee was interested in how data is collected to document flood extents and suggested more information could be given to community members so they could contribute to this documentation (i.e. what to capture and who to send it to).
- A comment was received through the survey and the open house in support of monitoring river conditions during freeze-up and mid-winter to track conditions that lead to breakup flooding and have more notice when flooding is expected.



# Next steps

The public engagement on the draft flood hazard maps prompted constructive discussions and input from community members and staff from TH and the municipality.

The project team is thankful to everyone who contributed to this project. This input helped WSS and their technical consultant, Stantec, as they finalized the maps. The feedback will also help the Government of Yukon and its partners with other initiatives informed by the flood maps.

The Water Resources Branch's commitments to the community going forward include:

- Revising the mapped extents at Henderson's Corner to better align with observed flood extents as indicated by a local resident and YG staff who supported the 2023 flood response.
- Informing Dawson City & Klondike Valley residents when the final flood hazard maps are released.
- Sharing online the flood extent shapefiles and other data represented on the maps.
- Continuing collaboration with TH and Dawson City to support interpretation of the flood hazard data in development planning and emergency preparation.
- Continuing to communicate interest in receiving ice and water level observations in our public messaging and on the Flood Hub ([floods.service.yukon.ca/pages/current-situation](https://floods.service.yukon.ca/pages/current-situation)), and collecting resident photos and observations<sup>3</sup> from high water events sent to [waterlevels@yukon.ca](mailto:waterlevels@yukon.ca).
- Continuing river ice formation and freeze-up water level monitoring through satellite image classification, remote camera images and water level gauging during the winter, including on-site mid-winter monitoring.
- Continuing drone captures and observations of the Klondike River freeze-up process, including through an existing agreement with TH.

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<sup>3</sup> Photo observations should include an obvious landmark, high water mark or measurement that can be verified and/or surveyed after the fact.