

## ATV Project Description

This project is a partnership between the Council of Yukon First Nations, One Yukon Coalition, and Yukon University, and in collaboration with Yukon First Nations governments. The project is guided by a project Steering Committee, made up of community representatives and experts in health and communication. The Steering Committee provides technical advice to the research team, ensures the incorporation of community perspectives in all stages of the project, and will guide the communication of the results once the project is complete.

Yukon's rural, remote, and Indigenous communities require unique communication strategies to ensure vaccine-related initiatives are culturally and contextually specific. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Yukoners worked together to share timely, relevant information. Through strong advocacy for the unique needs of rural, remote, and Indigenous communities, Yukoners were able to get early access to the COVID-19 vaccine; that, combined with the desire to get vaccinated, resulted in high vaccine uptake early on. As time has progressed, the vaccine uptake has slowed. Yukon communities have also seen lower uptake of influenza (flu) vaccines, from 2020 to 2023. Accordingly, this project aims to increase understanding about how Yukoners make decisions about vaccines, delving deeply into issues of communication, trust, history, and other factors that may influence both COVID-19 and flu vaccine uptake.

To understand how Yukoners make their decisions this project will use a territory-wide survey, data from the Yukon Regional Health Survey (RHS), and community-based case studies. The territory-wide survey will be open to all Yukoners and will provide a broad snapshot of territory-wide trends in vaccine communication and decision-making. The Regional Health Survey (RHS) is the first Canada-wide survey established by and for First Nations and is in its fourth iteration. This year, the Yukon division of the RHS will include questions related to vaccine attitudes, beliefs, and decision-making. Data from these RHS questions will be used within the project. If accessible, Yukon Government data will also be included in the project analysis. The community-based case studies will be led by a few First Nations communities and will bring about in-depth information about how community members make vaccine-related decisions, including who they trust to provide information about vaccines.

While some data has been collected regarding Yukon vaccine uptake, attitudes, and communication, timely access to the data is often inaccessible. Reasons provided for this inaccessibility relate to privacy concerns (for more information see Klein et al. 's 2023 [“Interjurisdictional dynamics amongst Yukon First Nations and non-Indigenous governments during the Covid-19 pandemic”](#)). The results of this project will increase understanding of how Yukoners make vaccine-related decisions. By Yukoners sharing these results, First Nations Governments, Territorial and Federal Governments, organizations, leaders, communities, and individuals will be better prepared to respond to future public health emergencies.