

LEGISLATIVE RETURN



SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Mr. Streicker, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

1. On November 7, 2023, Scott Kent, Member for Copperbelt South
- asked the following question during the Oral Question Period at page(s) 4336-4337 of *Hansard*
 - submitted the following written question – WQ No. #
 - gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. #

RE: Mineral exploration industry

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion with [MLA] on [date] related to:

Bill No. # Second Reading Third Reading

Committee of the Whole: [Vote]

Motion No. # RE: [subject]

at page(s) [page numbers] of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:

MLA Kent asked “I have some questions regarding mineral exploration in the territory. At last year’s Yukon Geoscience Forum, a government geologist with the Yukon Geological Survey warned that the number of companies and prospectors active in the territory could drop to a 57-year low and that new project numbers continue to decline. Since this warning was issued publicly by the government’s own scientist, I am assuming that the Liberals took it quite seriously.

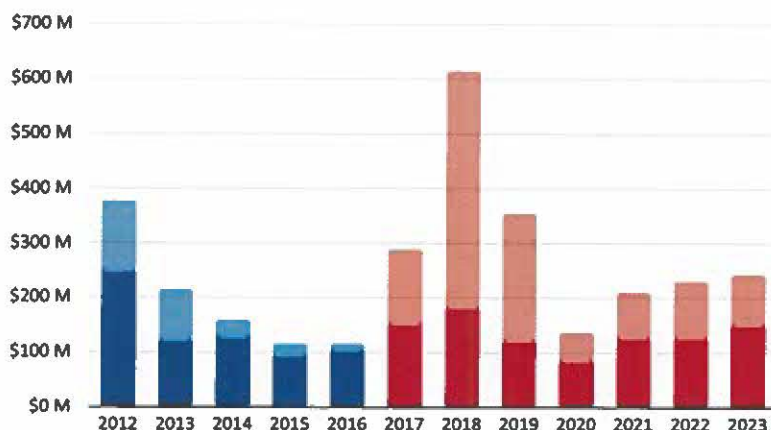
“What policy changes has the government undertaken in the last year to reverse this troubling trend in our mineral exploration industry?”

Response

First, it is important to note that mining exploration has been increasing in recent years. The Yukon 2023 exploration investment is estimated to be \$147 million, which is an 18% increase over 2022. The graph below shows mining development and exploration expenditures over the past 12 years. This data indicates that on average investment in mining has been \$100 million more under the Yukon Liberal government compared to the Yukon Party.

Yukon Mining Expenditures

- light colour = development expenditures
- dark colour = exploration expenditures



Annual mining expenditures during **Yukon Party** tenure: \$196 million / year

Annual mining expenditures during **Yukon Liberal** tenure: \$296 million / year

23-Nov, 2023

Date

Signature

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With respect to policy changes, in order to stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program was recently updated to include extra weighting for projects that target critical minerals as the primary exploration goal. Under this program in 2023, \$1.4 million was committed to support 44 exploration projects. This investment is expected to leverage an additional \$3.2 million in private sector spending on these projects.

23-Nov, 2023

Date



Signature