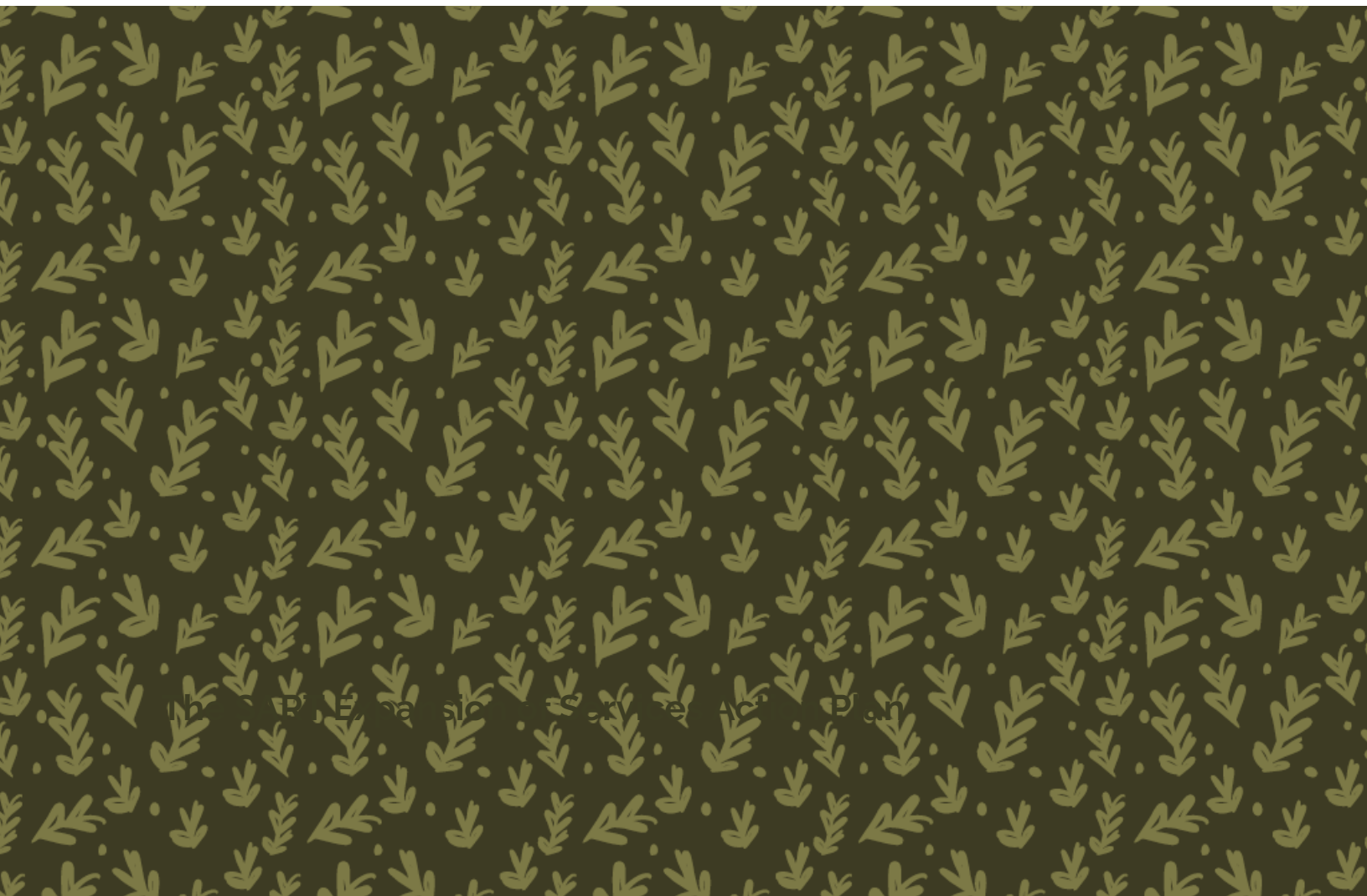




Expansion of Services Action Plan

September 2025



This action plan was developed to guide the expansion of services of the Yukon's Sexualized Assault Response Team (SART). The intention of this plan is to improve access to services for victims of sexualized violence in rural communities. This document outlines the current services available, as well as medium and long-term actions.

SART is a network of agencies that provide medical and forensic care, social supports, wellness, and legal services for victims of sexualized violence in the Yukon. These services are available to people of all genders, ages and sexual orientations.



This action plan is a living document and will be updated as we learn from implementing early actions and continue our collaborative work across SART partner agencies and work with Yukon communities.



Our commitment

SART agencies follow key principles:

- **Victim's choice:** Supporting each person in deciding what's best for them.
- **Dignity and respect:** Treating all victims with care and compassion.
- **Preventing re-traumatization:** Ensuring that seeking help does not cause further harm.
- **Cultural safety:** Providing services that respect Indigenous and diverse perspectives.
- **Access, equity and inclusion:** Ensuring all Yukoners, including those in rural communities, can access support.

Guiding principles

This plan is based on:

- Best practices from experts in the field.
- Insights from local service providers and Yukon First Nations.
- Engagement with communities, service providers, First Nations governments and victims of sexualized violence, summarized in the "[What We Heard](#)" report.
- Milestones from [*Changing the Story to Upholding Dignity and Justice: Yukon's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirited+ People Strategy*](#).

Available SART services in rural communities

- ✓ 24/7 Sexualized Assault Support (SAS) line – Call or text anytime for immediate support.
- ✓ Mental Wellness and Substance Use hubs – Priority access to counselling within 72 hours.
- ✓ RCMP – Reporting and investigation services.
- ✓ Victim Services – Crisis support, legal guidance, and court support.
- ✓ Independent Legal Advice – Confidential legal support for victims.
- ✓ Public Prosecution Service of Canada (Yukon office) – Prosecutors attend court in the communities to prosecute offences. Witness Coordinators are available to support/inform victims and witnesses.



Expansion of Services - Actions

Actions underway

- Strengthening partnerships between community service providers.
- Piloting a travel assistance program for victims to access safety and services.
- Expanding forensic care services and support across the Yukon.
- Launching a youth and rural-focused awareness campaign, including updates to the SART website.
- Providing more training for rural service providers to improve local support.
- Ensuring 24/7 call and text options remain available for victims.

Medium term actions (1-24 months)

Medical and forensic care

- Develop specialized training for forensic exams and evidence collection.
- Expand forensic care services at hospitals in Dawson and Watson Lake and support both hospitals in becoming Sexualized Assault Response Team agencies.
- Improve access to pediatric forensic care for child victims.
- Create guidelines for victim access to medical care, referrals and follow-ups.

Social supports

- Continue to pilot a travel assistance program for victims that enables individuals to leave unsafe spaces and access time-sensitive services.
- Strengthen connections between support providers to make services easier to navigate.
- Develop a specialized response model for child and youth victims with clear procedures and referrals.

Wellness and healing

- Identify options for victims to access mental health services that are culturally relevant, including Indigenous-led and land-based healing programs.

Legal access

- Work with partners to allow victims to use private entrances to minimize distress.
- Improve courtroom spaces and technological capacity to better support child and youth victims.
- Explore restorative justice options and alternative justice practices.

Network capacity-building

- Public awareness campaigns focused on reducing stigma and increasing service awareness.
- Update the SART website with more rural service information.
- Expand online training and webinar resources for rural service providers.

- Work with communities to integrate sexual health and healthy relationship education into events.
- Strengthen regional service networks and explore new SART partnerships.
- Develop a performance evaluation framework for SART services.

Long term actions (2-5 years)

Medical and forensic care

- Provide standardized forensic training to more health providers.
- Explore mobile and remote options to expand forensic care access in rural Yukon.
- Increase the number of forensic care providers across the territory.

Social supports

- Expand long-term travel assistance models for victims.
- Establish formal agreements to strengthen services for child and youth victims.
- Increase in-person victim support services in more communities.

Wellness and healing

- Continue to enhance culturally relevant mental health services and healing programs.

Legal access

- Find or create alternative police interview spaces that are more victim friendly.
- Identify safe waiting areas for victims at circuit court locations.
- Improve courtroom design and technological capacity access to better support children and youth.
- Continue exploring alternative justice options for victims.

Network capacity-building

- Strengthen the delivery of sexual health education in rural schools through curriculum support.
- Establish new community access points for SART services.
- Ensure Indigenous and rural service providers are represented in SART governance.
- Conduct an evaluation of SART services with feedback from victims and providers.

This action plan is part of the Government of Yukon's ongoing commitment to improving support for victims of sexualized violence. It reflects input from key service providers and will continue to evolve based on community needs and best practices.

