

FOR RELEASE  
September 9, 2016

## **Government of Yukon funds extension of Watson Lake soup kitchen, food bank**

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon is providing \$30,000 in relief funding to the Watson Lake Food Bank and Soup Kitchen Society, which will allow the society to enhance its services in Yukon's southernmost community over the fall and winter months.

"Watson Lake's food bank is an important component of social safety and health in the community," Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Nixon said. "We hope this funding will enable the food bank to continue to provide enhanced support to people who are facing difficult times and struggling to meet their basic needs."

Collaborative efforts over the past two months by federal and territorial agencies and non-governmental organizations have provided a broad range of mental, emotional and cultural health supports to address some of the issues the community has faced. Despite this, further assistance is still needed.

"We are very pleased the Yukon government is working with us to address food security needs for high-risk individuals in Watson Lake," Watson Lake Food Bank and Soup Kitchen Society president George Morgan said. "This contribution will allow us to keep our doors open weekdays over the difficult winter months and to better assess our needs into the future."

The food bank typically provides hot meals and food hampers one day per week. For the past month, however, it has been operating five days a week, serving up to 30 clients daily. It also delivers lunches to as many as 20 house-bound residents.

"I'm happy to have worked with the food bank society so they can continue to provide this much-needed service to the community," Watson Lake MLA Patti McLeod said.

Through the Department of Health and Social Services, the society will receive \$30,000 to continue to offer enhanced hours five days per week, to provide boxed lunches to high risk individuals who are house-bound, and to offer a safe environment where community members can gather. Other services providers will be invited to provide resources and supports as appropriate.

-30-

### Contact:

Michael Edwards  
Cabinet Communications  
867-633-7910  
michael.edwards@gov.yk.ca

Marcelle Dubé  
Communications, Health and Social Services  
867-667-3010  
marcelle.dube@gov.yk.ca

*News Release #16-314*



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here:  
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.