



## Government of Yukon

Government of Yukon » November 2010 » News Release #10-204

### Newsroom

Latest news releases

### News by theme

News by department  
 Community Services  
 Economic Development  
 Education  
 Energy, Mines and Resources  
 Environment  
 Executive Council Office  
 Finance  
 French Language Services  
 Directorate  
 Health and Social Services  
 Highways and Public Works  
 Justice  
 Public Service Commission  
 Tourism and Culture  
 Women's Directorate

### News by corporations

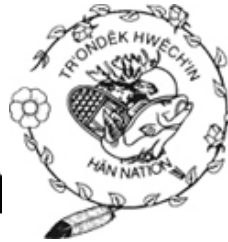
Yukon Development Corporation  
 Yukon Energy Corporation  
 Yukon Housing Corporation  
 Yukon Liquor Corporation  
 Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board

### Joint news releases

Premier's News

### News by date

2017 news releases  
 January  
 February  
 March  
 April  
 May  
 June  
 July  
 August  
 September  
 October  
 November  
 December



FOR RELEASE #10-204  
 November 10, 2010

### Discovery of human remains leads to united response

**WHITEHORSE** – The human remains of three unidentified individuals were unearthed over a 72-hour period in Dawson City beginning Thursday, November 4. The initial discovery was made by an excavation crew removing earth as part of the foundation work on the Dawson City Wastewater Treatment Plant, slated for completion in 2011.

Work at the site was immediately stopped and local law enforcement notified. Yukon government Senior Projects Archaeologist Greg Hare travelled to Dawson City where he met with officials from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the community.

The Yukon government, in partnership with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, municipal officials and community volunteers, removed the human remains and three wooden coffins by Saturday evening. All recovered remains are being temporarily held in a safe storage facility in Dawson City.

Yukon, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and City of Dawson governments will continue to work together with area residents to identify the three individuals and make plans for re-interment. If re-interment is unavoidably delayed, alternate safe storage will be found.

While there has been much speculation about the identity of the individuals and the circumstances surrounding their burial, no conclusions can be made before a thorough scientific investigation and review of the historical record is completed.

While work on the Dawson City Wastewater Treatment Facility project was halted during the removal of the discovery, the impact on the project schedule is considered to be minor. Construction is back underway and the project is scheduled for completion by December 31, 2011. Questions regarding the construction of the Dawson City Wastewater Treatment Plant project should be directed to Yukon's Highways and Public Works.

Questions regarding the discovery should be directed to Yukon's Department of Tourism and Culture and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Questions regarding the community's involvement during the recovery process can be directed to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the City of Dawson.

-30-

### Contact:

Roxanne Vallevand

Karen Keeley

Cabinet Communications  
867-633-7949  
[roxanne.vallevand@gov.yk.ca](mailto:roxanne.vallevand@gov.yk.ca)

Communications, Tourism & Culture  
867-667-8304  
[karen.keeley@gov.yk.ca](mailto:karen.keeley@gov.yk.ca)

---

Wayne Potoroka  
Communications, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in  
867-993-7158  
[Wayne.potoroka@gov.trondek.com](mailto:Wayne.potoroka@gov.trondek.com)

Doris Wurfbaum  
Communications, Highways & Public Works  
867-393-7193  
[doris.wurfbaum@gov.yk.ca](mailto:doris.wurfbaum@gov.yk.ca)

---

Jeff Renaud  
Dawson City CAO  
867-993-7400  
[cao@cityofdawson.ca](mailto:cao@cityofdawson.ca)

---

<%img\_newsarticle%>

Last Updated: 11/10/2010 | [Copyright](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) | [Disclaimer](#)