



Government of Yukon

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FOR RELEASE #10-033
March 8, 2010

Protective Services branches donate gear and clothing

WHITEHORSE – Used coats and surplus firefighting equipment are getting a new lease on life, thanks to the generosity of Yukon volunteers, the Yukon Fire Marshal's Office and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

"Yukon's Protective Services team does an excellent job of safeguarding Yukoners at home, and these donations indicate their desire to support people in developing nations and those in need in Yukon," Community Service Minister Archie Lang said.

With the donations from the Fire Marshal's Office, the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs is providing out-of-service firefighting equipment to a firefighters' organization in Kamloops that helps to equip fire departments in developing countries such as Tanzania, Nicaragua and Haiti.

Kluane Freight Lines and Manitoulin Transport donated their services to transport the firefighting gear to Kamloops.

"This good, operable equipment will soon help firefighters in developing countries to protect their communities," acting Fire Marshal Michael Marcuson said. "This equipment is fully functional and will help firefighters who need gear to do their jobs. We are grateful to our volunteers for the months of effort they contributed to help make this happen."

Emergency Medical Services is donating more than 70 jackets that no longer meet highway safety standards to the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition (YAPC). YAPC is working with its partners to ensure that the retired and surplus coats go to those in need in Whitehorse and Yukon communities. Local business Patches 'N' Stitches donated time and materials to make the EMS coats ready for donation.

"Our ambulance crews, staff and volunteers help Yukoners when they need help most," Emergency Medical Services director Susan Skaalid said. "We are proud to donate coats to help people stay warm on cold and windy days."

"The people in the Fire Marshal's Office, Emergency Medical Services, and the Protective Services division are dedicated professionals, and I am proud to support their good work," Lang added. "On behalf of Yukon government, I also wish to thank all of the volunteers who are helping to get these initiatives off the ground."

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