



Government of Yukon

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FOR RELEASE #11-025
February 14, 2011

Yukon Housing Corporation adjusts rentals to help seniors

WHITEHORSE—Changes are being made to the Yukon Housing Corporation (YHC) housing rental program for seniors, announced Minister responsible Jim Kenyon.

"The Yukon Housing Corporation board of directors is taking action to help Yukon seniors access housing and enable them to remain in their home community," Kenyon said. "The corporation is pleased to announce two program changes to help create a better quality of life for Yukon seniors."

First, the corporation will no longer consider an applicant's assets when determining a senior's eligibility for social housing. However, the value of the senior's assets will continue to be considered when prioritizing placement of an applicant on the waitlist.

Secondly, although seniors' rent will continue to be calculated at 25 per cent of gross monthly household income, a monthly maximum related to the median rent in Whitehorse or in rural Yukon respectively, depending on location, will be put in place.

Implementation of the changes will be gradual, due to training and modifications required to the computer systems. Rents will be adjusted retroactive to April 1, 2011.

In addition to stable rent rates, seniors in Yukon Housing Corporation units may access the Yukon Home Care Program through the Department of Health and Social Services. The program delivers health-related services to individuals who have difficulty accessing services in the community due to mobility or health restraints. Seniors' buildings will accommodate these visits.

"Yukon seniors have worked hard to build and contribute to their respective communities," Kenyon said. "This government supports the YHC board in valuing that contribution by providing seniors with affordable housing."

YHC is now accepting applications for the new seniors' residences in Watson Lake and Faro. For more information about the social housing program visit www.housing.yk.ca.

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