

## **Government of Yukon**

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FOR RELEASE July 21, 2011 #11-104



## Yukon government working to assist tent city campers

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon government is moving forward with a plan to assist people who have been camping near the main Yukon Government Administration Building in Whitehorse, with the goal of identifying safer viable accommodations for the campers. An independent contractor has been hired to meet with campers, identify their individual needs and liaise with government officials to identify possible solutions for those campers who need help.

The tent site was established by two campers in early June to protest availability of housing in Whitehorse, but since then it has grown in size, varying between approximately 25 to 40 tents in the past week. A multi-departmental team has been working to research the complex issues related to the tent site and assess how best to assist those campers who require support.

"The Yukon government is working with campers to find more suitable accommodation options," Premier Darrell Pasloski said. "We are making a concerted effort to identify the individual needs of each camper and offer solutions to those requiring assistance."

For those campers who need help, the next step is for the contractor to liaise with government officials who will offer solutions, services and support, as required by each camper.

The Yukon government is continuing to move forward with a number of initiatives to meet a variety of housing needs throughout Yukon. Recent announcements include funding for a second-stage housing project led by Kaushee's Place in Whitehorse; construction of new seniors' residences in Watson Lake, Teslin and Whitehorse; construction of additional affordable housing units for families in Whitehorse; and renovations to provide more housing for Health and Social Services clients at the Alexander Street Residence in Whitehorse.

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