



FOR RELEASE
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New Salvation Army Centre of Hope to be built in Whitehorse

WHITEHORSE—Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski and Salvation Army Lt.-Col. Jim Champ today announced the construction of The Salvation Army Centre of Hope in downtown Whitehorse.

"The Salvation Army has a long history of serving and supporting vulnerable populations in Yukon and we are extremely pleased to be working in partnership with them to build this new facility," Pasloski said today at the announcement. "This government is proud to deliver on our commitment to replace and expand the homeless shelter in Whitehorse."

The Salvation Army Centre of Hope will provide a range of support services and will feature a 25-space emergency shelter, drop-in space, increased dining room capacity and 22 transitional housing units. It will replace the Salvation Army's aging facility at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Black Street.

"The Salvation Army greatly appreciates the support and partnership with the Yukon government so that we can continue to serve some of the most vulnerable in this community and be a transforming influence," Champ said. "We look forward to the day that we can open the doors of this new facility so that those who need it will have a safe place to live and the supports they need."

Earlier this year the Yukon government purchased three lots bordering Fourth Avenue and Alexander Street as the future site of the centre.

"I have seen first-hand the many ways the Salvation Army serves people with complex needs," Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Nixon said. "They are important contributors to the health and well-being of our community. We are so pleased to continue to support this organization."

In total, the Yukon government is contributing \$10.2 million for the lot purchase, design development and construction of the centre. The Salvation Army will work closely with the departments of Health and Social Services and Highways and Public Works, which will provide a project manager as well as technical expertise and project oversight to deliver the facility on time and on budget.

Work will begin on site later this spring with an opening slated for fall 2016. The Salvation Army plans to sell its existing facility once it has moved its operations into the new building.

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