



FOR RELEASE  
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## **New strategic initiatives unit for Department of Energy, Mines and Resources**

WHITEHORSE—Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Scott Kent today announced at the 2015 Geoscience Forum and Trade Show that there will be a new unit in the department dedicated to working on strategic initiatives, including the Mine Licensing Improvement Initiative and the Mineral Development Strategy.

"Bringing these two projects to fruition is a priority for the government, so we are advancing them in a more coordinated manner," Kent said. "The new unit will be headed by new assistant deputy minister Brian MacDonald who brings his extensive experience in change management and relationship development to the Yukon government."

MacDonald was most recently chair of the Dakwakada Development Corporation, and is also the founding president of the Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce.

This specialized unit will work with First Nations, stakeholders, government agencies and industry to build a sustainable industry that adheres to high environmental standards and supports mineral exploration and development in Yukon.

"When the unit's work is complete, Yukon will have a regulatory system that is more effective, which in turn will provide certainty for investors and industry," Kent added.

The Yukon government will also continue to strongly promote Yukon as an attractive jurisdiction for mining and other business investment, which brings lasting benefits for all Yukon residents.

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