



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon government engages with First Nations to explore land development

WHITEHORSE—Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent today announced that engagement with three First Nations – the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council – will be initiated to discuss the development of rural residential and agriculture lots south of Whitehorse.

"The area in Mount Lorne known as the McGowan lands has been of interest to many Yukoners for agricultural and rural residential development for some time," Kent said. "The Government of Yukon has publicly considered several possible development scenarios over the last few years, and we look forward to engaging with First Nations to discuss moving forward on this project."

The McGowan lands are located just outside the Whitehorse municipal boundary on the Carcross Road, close to Cowley Creek in the hamlet of Mount Lorne (kilometre 151). The Yukon government will explore the land parcel's potential availability for private development following discussions with the three First Nations.

"There are distinct advantages to supporting a private development based on publicly-approved standards and zoning," Kent added. "The public is assured that any development taking place will include their participation. We see this as a win-win situation for everyone on an issue that is important to many Yukoners – land availability."

The terms of reference currently being considered for the proposed project would make the developer responsible for submitting an application to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board and obtaining all other necessary regulatory approvals, including a plan and zoning amendment.

The agreement for sale would stipulate that the government would terminate the arrangement and take back the land without penalty should the developer be unable to obtain the regulatory approvals for the project.

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