



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon government extends staking prohibition in the Ross River Area to 2017

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon government has extended the prohibition of entry for mineral staking in the Ross River Area until January 31, 2017. The extension will allow for continued consultation with Ross River Dena Council in relation to which lands in the area will be available for staking.

"The Yukon government has had productive discussions with the Ross River Dena Council and we believe the extension provides a reasonable timeline in which to conclude an agreement," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent said. "The important work we are doing now will help establish the certainty that will benefit the community, the territory and the resource sector for the long term."

The staking prohibition order was first put in place in December 2013 to allow the Yukon government to consult with the Ross River Dena Council pursuant to the December 2012 decision of the Yukon Court of Appeal. The order was due to expire on January 31, 2015.

The December 27, 2012 decision of the Yukon Court of Appeal in *Ross River Dena Council vs. Government of Yukon* made a declaration related to the Yukon government's duty to consult with the Ross River Dena Council in determining whether mineral rights on Crown lands are to be made available in the Ross River Area.

The prohibition of entry does not affect existing claims within the area; it disallows the staking of new claims. The prohibition of staking applies to claims under the *Quartz Mining Act* and the *Placer Mining Act*. The Yukon government expects to complete the consultation process with the Ross River Dena Council during the extended consultation period. Existing claimholders will continue to be given relief from assessment in this time period.

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