

FOR RELEASE March 14, 2013

New territorial campground planned for Atlin Lake

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon is developing plans for a new territorial campground at Atlin Lake to meet the growing demand for quality camping and recreation opportunities in the Southern Lakes region, Environment Minister Currie Dixon announced today.

"Atlin Lake is a big, beautiful lake with excellent fishing opportunities, and is less than two hours away from Whitehorse, making it an ideal location for a new campground," Dixon said. "It is our intent that this new campground will be open to the public for the 2015 camping season."

The site of the proposed campground is a 112-hectare reserve on the eastern shore of Atlin Lake, at Kilometre 40 of the Atlin Road just north of the British Columbia border. There has been no development on the site to date. Preliminary work suggests the campground would feature 45 campsites, a boat launch and a dock.

"Yukoners and visitors alike enjoy experiencing our incredible environment by visiting our territorial campgrounds," Dixon added. "Campgrounds within a two hour drive of Whitehorse are at or near capacity just about every weekend during the camping season, so we know that there is considerable demand for a new campground."

The Yukon government has identified \$75,000 in the 2012/13 Supplementary Estimates No. 2 to begin planning, and the 2013/14 Budget Main Estimates will seek \$780,000 to begin construction this summer, subject to legislative approval. As a part of the planning process, the Yukon government will seek input from the public, affected First Nations, and stakeholders.

The government operates 42 highway campgrounds throughout the territory, charging just \$12 per night or \$50 for a season's pass. The campground network offers fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing and boating opportunities. Roadside campgrounds offer picnic tables, campfire pits, firewood and at least one picnic shelter, along with outhouses and hand-pumped cold water.

For more information about Yukon government campgrounds visit www.env.gov.yk.ca/camping-parks/campgrounds.php.

-30-

Contact:

Matthew Grant Cabinet Communications 867-393-6470 matthew.grant@gov.yk.ca Nancy Campbell Environment Yukon Communications 867-456-6794 nancy.campbell@gov.yk.ca