



FOR RELEASE
December 5, 2014

Government contributes \$60,000 to secure Public Avalanche Forecast

WHITEHORSE—Together, the Government of Yukon and the Yukon Avalanche Association have ensured the Public Avalanche Forecast will continue for the 2015 peak avalanche season.

"This forecast helps to make wilderness use safer for Yukoners and visitors alike," Minister of Community Services Brad Cathers said. "We are happy to be working with the Yukon Avalanche Association on this important initiative."

The Government of Yukon's Department of Community Services is contributing \$60,000 to help the Yukon Avalanche Association (YAA) deliver the Public Avalanche Forecast which covers the White Pass and Wheaton Valley regions. This forecast conforms to international standards and informs users of avalanche conditions twice weekly during the peak season (January to April).

"Thanks to the financial support of the Yukon government, the YAA is pleased to continue providing a public avalanche forecast this winter," Yukon Avalanche Association president Michael Smith said. "This is a valuable public service that helps to ensure the safety of Yukoners in avalanche terrain."

Along with the forecast, the Yukon Avalanche Association works with sport organizations and emergency services to provide innovative, made-in-Yukon awareness and education products including: the Tech Blog; YouTube videos; and the annual Backcountry Avalanche Workshop.

"The Yukon Avalanche Association is a great organization and resource for many," Cathers added. "This financial contribution will help the association continue to do the important work it does for our athletes, recreation enthusiasts, emergency service providers and tourists."

The Yukon Avalanche Association has been offering the public forecasts, training, data collection and other services since 2010.

Learn more: Yukon Avalanche Association

-30-

Contact:
Elaine Schiman
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

Roxanne Stasyszyn
Communications, Community Services
867-332-4188
roxanne.stasyszyn@gov.yk.ca