



FOR RELEASE  
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## **The Yukon government purchases two new ambulances**

WHITEHORSE—Two new ambulances will support Yukon Emergency Medical Services (Yukon EMS) in the professional, safe and efficient delivery of pre-hospital emergency medical care.

"The Yukon government continues to invest in the equipment, facilities and training that our paramedics and emergency medical responders need," Minister of Community Services Brad Cathers said. "By upgrading and replacing units with modern ambulances, Yukon EMS paramedics and emergency response volunteers will better meet the needs of patients."

The two new state-of-the-art ambulances cost a total of \$310,000, and represent an important investment in Yukon EMS. Each ambulance accommodates a patient and two paramedics, or can be configured to carry additional Yukon EMS personnel and two patients.

"The professional paramedics and emergency response volunteers of Yukon EMS train to stay sharp and be prepared to assist Yukoners and visitors experiencing a medical emergency," Cathers added. "They respond in demanding circumstances to help those in need, care for the injured on the scene and transport them to appropriate health care facilities."

The ambulances are outfitted to operate efficiently year-round and in harsh winter conditions. Installation of multiple electrical and oxygen outlets allows for greater flexibility in caring for the needs of patients. A scene-lighting system, brighter emergency lights, improved reflective markings, back-up camera and treatment area camera all contribute to safer operations. These new ambulances join the fleet of 23 ambulances that Yukon maintains, providing territory-wide emergency medical services. Two high-mileage vehicles will now safely be retired from the fleet.

"With the holiday season upon us, Yukoners are urged to take special care to prevent injuries and medical emergencies," acting director of Yukon Emergency Medical Services Jeff Simons said. "We ask Yukoners to pull over and come to a halt when an ambulance approaches with its lights flashing, to pace themselves when decorating and shovelling snow, to stay rested and to remember to take their medications on time while in the excitement of the holiday season."

Yukon EMS is an essential partner of the Yukon government's healthcare system. To date, Yukon EMS have responded to 5,094 calls across the territory in 2014. They have also completed 835 air medevacs from rural communities to Whitehorse or to medical facilities outside of Yukon.

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