

FOR RELEASE
April 18, 2016

New staff housing project announced for Ross River

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon has allocated \$3 million, subject to legislative approval, for a new staff residence in Ross River to accommodate Yukon government employees who work in the community.

"The Yukon government's staff housing program provides rental housing to employees who are essential to the delivery of government programs and services in the communities," Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation Stacey Hassard said. "The new residence will be in the form of a multi-unit residence rather than single detached buildings."

Yukon Housing Corporation provides 169 units across Yukon for teachers, nurses, doctors, social workers, conservation officers and other professionals. The corporation also provides housing to the Yukon Hospital Corporation in Watson Lake and Dawson City, as well as employees of Yukon College in certain circumstances.

The Ross River project will be based on the design of the recently constructed energy-efficient seniors' residence in Mayo. It will feature six apartments in a mix of single and two bedroom configurations. The corporation will work with the Public Service Commission to consider additional design features.

Yukon Housing Corporation and the Public Service Commission continue to explore options to meet the staff housing demand in rural Yukon. These include alternate ways to offer housing in market and near-market communities, where the private sector could play a greater role in providing rental accommodations.

"Not only is this an investment into new housing and Yukon's economy, it will also allow us to reduce operating costs and carbon emissions by converting to clean electrical heating," Hassard added.

A suitable building lot has been identified and work is underway to finalize the acquisition of the property. Construction is expected to begin this fall.

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News Release #16-143



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