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## **Yukon government provides assistance to hard rock mineral industry**

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon government is taking concrete steps to help create jobs for Yukoners in the mining sector by creating incentives for exploration, supporting industry organizations and working towards improved access.

Yukon has exceptional potential for resource development and some of the prime mineral areas need an improved transportation network to give better access for exploration and development.

"Our current focus is upgrades to the Goldfield, Casino, Freegold and Nahanni Range roads to improve access in the Dawson and Nahanni Range areas," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent said.

The Government of Yukon is providing funding to the Yukon Chamber of Mines towards the implementation of the organization's communications plan, costing approximately \$450,000 over the next three years. The funding will be provided by the Department of Economic Development.

"This funding will assist the chamber to continue advancing the interests of the Yukon mining industry and ensure the organization remains a partner and conduit for mining interests throughout Yukon," Minister of Economic Development Stacey Hassard said. "We are happy to contribute \$150,000 for the 2016/17 year, and are committed to providing additional support in the future."

"We are also planning to again issue double assessment credits for claimholders," Kent added. "We have heard from First Nations with respect to how the credits apply to settlement land, and we will work with First Nations to determine how to best address their concerns."

The Yukon government is also assisting the mineral exploration industry by continuing its funding commitment of \$1.4 million for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program, managed by the Yukon Geological Survey.

"The 2015 projects resulted in numerous new discoveries that I expect we will hear more about in future, including new discoveries at the STU project, Kate project, WELS Gold, and SE Yukon nephrite project," Kent added.

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### Contact:

Dan Macdonald  
Cabinet Communications  
867-393-6470  
dan.macdonald@gov.yk.ca

Sue Thomas  
Communications, Energy, Mines and Resources  
867-334-3123  
sue.thomas@gov.yk.ca

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