

FOR RELEASE
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Yukon government provides assistance to the placer mining industry

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon is taking steps to help ensure placer miners have the best possible season in 2016.

The Yukon government is committed to ensuring seasonally maintained roads in the Klondike goldfields region are open for use as early in the spring as possible. Contingent upon conditions, crews will start road openings in February and the roads could be open to traffic by mid-March.

"In addition to the early openings, the upgrading of resource access roads is a high priority," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent said. "We are working closely with the Klondike Placer Miners' Association to identify critical upgrades required in the goldfields."

Additionally, the Klondike Placer Miners' Association and the Yukon government are working together to finalize a wetland reclamation guide for the placer mining industry. The guide will recommend techniques that will lead to a re-establishment of wetlands in placer-mined wetland areas.

"The guide will provide for a clearer and more consistent approach for regulators, assessors and industry," Kent added. "It will be finalized and made publicly available in time for the upcoming mining season."

The Yukon government continues to assist the mineral exploration industry by maintaining the funding commitment of \$1.4 million for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program, which is the oldest prospectors' assistance program in Canada. In 2015/16, the program supported 62 placer and hard rock exploration projects and leveraged an estimated \$4.2 million in industry investment in Yukon.

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