

Government of Yukon

Government of Yukon » August 2010 » News Release #10-167

Newsroom

Latest news releases

News by theme

News by department

Community Services
Economic Development

Education

Energy, Mines and Resources

Environment

Executive Council Office

Finance

French Language Services

Directorate

Health and Social Services

Highways and Public Works

Justice

Public Service Commission

Tourism and Culture

Women's Directorate

News by corporations

Yukon Development

Corporation

Yukon Energy Corporation

Yukon Housing Corporation

Yukon Liquor Corporation Yukon Workers'

Compensation Health and

Safety Board

Joint news releases Premier's News

News by date

2017 news releases

January

February

March April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

News archive





FOR RELEASE #10-167 September 1, 2010

Secure driver's licence and ID card to be made in Yukon

WHITEHORSE – Yukon's new secure driver's licence and first-ever general government-issued photo identification card will be produced in-house by Yukon's Motor Vehicles Branch.

"Yukon government is putting into place the legal and operational framework to begin issuing the new cards later this fall," Community Services Minister Archie Lang said.

"Not only will the driver's licence and general identification card meet North American and Canadian standards," Lang continued, "but we are also starting fresh with a new secure system. Yukoners can be confident that the government-issued ID will be readily accepted and include features to better protect against identity theft and forgery."

Security features will include a digital photo and signature, a two-dimensional bar code and a hologram. Additional safeguards include wavy lines similar to those found on money as well as features which are activated by ultra-violet light.

Earlier this summer Yukon awarded a contract to Datacard Canada Inc. to provide specialized production equipment, software, card stock and training. The company is currently assembling Yukon's equipment and designing multi-layer, custom card stock, using well proven technology in use by Saskatchewan and all Maritime provinces.

"A benefit of the chosen production system is that Motor Vehicles' staff in Whitehorse can add personal information to the custom card stock and produce the cards on site," Motor Vehicles branch manager Walter Brennan said. "All personal information provided to obtain the identification cards will continue to be kept in-house and protected by secure Yukon government systems and networks.

"We will further ensure that any privacy-related issues or concerns are addressed through regular and ongoing discussions with Yukon's Privacy Commissioner," Brennan added.

Training of staff and installation of digital signature pads and other equipment in the Whitehorse office and the communities will be completed over the next two months.

Information on when and how to obtain the cards will be announced in September.

For more information, visit Yukon's Motor Vehicles branch on the web at www.community.gov.yk.ca.

-30-

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