



Government of Yukon

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June 9, 2011

A welcoming environment for travellers at the Whitehorse Airport

WHITEHORSE—Ryan Leef, Member of Parliament for Yukon on behalf of the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister of Health, and Yukon government Ministers Elaine Taylor and Archie Lang officially unveiled the new design and display project at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.

The Government of Canada is pleased to invest in this project that provides visitors with a glimpse of Yukon's diverse landscapes, amazing scenery, history and culture," said Mr. Leef. "This project builds upon other recently announced investments in overseas and domestic tourism and will promote increased visitor spending and create jobs in Yukon."

"The Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport is considered a gathering place for Yukoners as much as it is an arrival and departure point for visitors and travellers," Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor said. "The installation of artwork and photographic displays reflects Yukon's vibrant arts, culture, history, business and travel opportunities, providing a welcoming environment for all."

"The Yukon government is committed to the safety and integrity of the airport," Minister of Highways and Public Works Archie Lang said. "We also recognize that as a first portal of entry for visitors and residents, a welcoming and creative airport will reflect the Yukon experience."

The colour palette and style are based on Ted Harrison's artwork, Departure of Persephone. The airport reflects six thematic artistic zones: What the land remembers; colours of our land; life in our communities; the Yukon – our river; where the wild things are; and our historic moments. There is also an area commemorating Erik Nielsen, Yukon's longest standing Member of Parliament for whom the airport was named after in 2008.

The design and display airport project reflects the work undertaken by a community advisory committee and information gathered from First Nations, community groups and stakeholders.

The project is supported through a \$200,000 investment from CanNor's Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development (SINED) program and \$150,000 from Yukon's Department of Tourism and Culture.

The Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport handles more than 200,000 visitors each year and works closely with domestic, as well as international air carriers, to provide a high standard of service and create a positive travel experience.

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