



FOR RELEASE
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Whitehorse Public Library holds grand opening

WHITEHORSE—The Whitehorse Public Library officially opened with a public celebration today in its new waterfront location next to the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

The opening ceremony included presentations by Community Services Minister the Honourable Elaine Taylor, Yukon Member of Parliament Ryan Leef, acting Chief of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation Raymond Sydney and the chair of the Whitehorse Public Library Board Hans Ott.

"The Government of Canada is proud to make investments that improve community infrastructure," Leef said on behalf of the Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister of Health the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq. "The new library, with its unique waterfront location, creates a learning and gathering place and is an example of how co-operation between partners can contribute to strong and prosperous communities."

The Whitehorse Public Library and Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre buildings are funded jointly by Yukon, Canada and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation under the Canadian Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF). Yukon and Canada each contributed \$7.4 million toward the project and Kwanlin Dün First Nation contributed approximately \$7.9 million. The total cost of the cultural centre and new library is \$22.7 million.

"Locating the library next to the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre provides inspiration and opportunity for the sharing of culture and tradition. The new facility will complement the many improvements seen in recent years along the waterfront in Whitehorse," Taylor said.

In all, more than \$33 million has been invested in the revitalization of the Whitehorse Waterfront under the CSIF program. Projects include improvements to Shipyards Park and Rotary Peace Park, trail enhancements, completion of the Whitehorse Wharf, First Avenue improvements including lighting and underground utilities, as well as the investment in the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre and Whitehorse Public Library.

"The co-location of these wonderful facilities is an example of what can be achieved when we work in partnership with other governments for the betterment of our community. On behalf of Kwanlin Dün, I am pleased to be here today to celebrate the official opening of the library and we look forward to the grand opening of our cultural centre in 2012," Sydney said. "Together, the Whitehorse Public Library and the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre will offer a rich cultural space for Yukoners and visitors alike."

In 2012 the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre will officially open to the public in a celebration to be announced by the First Nation.

For more information about the new Whitehorse Public Library please visit online or visit the library in person at its new location.

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