



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Expansion of IT capital development fund planned for 2016**

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon has announced a \$2 million annual funding increase for the Information Technology (IT) capital envelope to advance eServices and eGovernment initiatives. The funding increase will take effect in the 2016/17 budget, subject to legislative approval.

"By increasing funding of IT infrastructure projects, the Yukon government can provide enhanced connectivity, mobility and overall improvements to key government programs and services," Minister of Highways and Public Works Scott Kent said. "When this 30 per cent expansion takes effect it will help grow and support local capacity in Yukon's rapidly maturing IT sector."

The Government of Yukon works closely with Yukon-based system development and infrastructure firms to procure essential IT products and services locally. Government procurement projects generate a large volume of contracting opportunities for Yukon's IT private sector.

"This annual \$2 million increase to the IT capital envelope fund is a win-win for the Government of Yukon and local industry," Minister of Economic Development Stacey Hassard said. "This will expand the opportunities for local IT businesses to bid on projects, help businesses grow and create jobs in the IT sector."

Past IT infrastructure projects delivered by Yukon firms range from fibre optic network and Mobile Radio Systems expansions to the development and maintenance of government systems such as Corporate Financials, which facilitates payment transfers to citizens.

"An increased IT capital envelope stabilizes the local market and allows Yukon companies to make investments in staff and training," Yukon Information Technology and Industry Society president Chris Lane said. "What is really exciting is that this will also accelerate the already growing export market for IT products and services. Our society will continue to work with the Yukon government, the industry and Yukon Research Centre to make Yukon a hub for innovation that will create great jobs for today and tomorrow."

The \$2 million expansion of the fund in 2016 will be directed towards priority projects identified in the annual capital planning process. Engagement on potential projects will occur in the coming months with local industry representatives.

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

Ben Horowitz  
Communications, Highways and Public Works  
867-667-8935  
ben.horowitz@gov.yk.ca

Juanita Power  
Communications, Economic Development  
867-667-5907  
juanita.power@gov.yk.ca

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