



FOR RELEASE  
January 14, 2015

## **New Department of Environment building officially opened in Watson Lake**

WHITEHORSE—The new District Office building in Watson Lake was formally opened by Minister of Environment Currie Dixon this morning in a small ceremony witnessed by invited guests and department staff.

"This new facility will result in improved public service with lower operating costs, reflecting the Yukon government's commitment to good governance and strong fiscal management," Dixon said. "By having Fish and Wildlife Branch staff and Conservation Officer Services Branch staff together under one roof, the public will be able to access services more easily and in more pleasant surroundings."

The 3,000-square-foot building replaces a complex – dating back to the 1960s – consisting of a small building, trailer and storage shed. It will house two Conservation Officers, two biologists and one administrative support person year-round, plus seasonal parks staff.

Services include sales to the public of campground permits, angling permits and hunting licences and seals, along with *Environment Act* and *Wildlife Act* enforcement activities, wildlife research and management, and administrative support for campground maintenance.

Construction of the \$2.46 million facility, which involved local labour and businesses, began in March 2014 and ended eight months later, on time and within budget.

"This infrastructure investment demonstrates the Yukon government's commitment to providing good service to the community of Watson Lake," Dixon said. "The local economy has benefitted and staff are looking forward to working in a modern office environment."

The new energy-efficient building has four offices, a meeting room, work bays, a biological submission room with walk-in freezer, general storage, public and staff washrooms, and space for seasonal staff. The bigger, open workspace in the reception area is roomy enough for two staff to assist clients at the same time.

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