



FOR RELEASE
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New study to monitor Whitehorse air quality

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon and City of Whitehorse are partnering to monitor fine particulate matter in the air throughout Whitehorse for the next year.

"Targeted air-emissions monitoring will ensure that we are better-equipped to protect the health of Yukoners," Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Nixon said. "This study will measure the emissions from all sources, including wood burning, motor vehicles and wildfires."

Nine air quality monitors were installed by an air quality expert with the assistance of the City of Whitehorse and the office of Chief Medical Officer of Health. The sites were selected based on several criteria, including proximity to the city's most populated areas, secure and unobstructed access and the generation of different levels of fine particulate matter.

"The wide range of sites being monitored, and the year-long monitoring period, will give us a better understanding of the air quality in all parts of Whitehorse," Minister of Environment Wade Istchenko said. "Monitoring and regulating air emissions helps maintain human and environmental health."

Monitors are located in Porter Creek, Hidden Valley, Takhini North, Takhini Trailer Park, Hillcrest/McIntyre, Riverdale, Copper Ridge, Kopper King, and at the existing downtown air quality monitoring station.

"Our city is topographically diverse," Whitehorse Mayor Dan Curtis said. "This study will help paint a more accurate picture of wood smoke concentration throughout our neighbourhoods and increase public education opportunities."

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