FOR RELEASE
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Construction of new detox centre to begin this spring

WHITEHORSE—Construction of a new complex to replace the Sarah Steele alcohol and drug services building will begin this spring, Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Nixon announced today.

"This new facility will allow us to deliver an enhanced suite of services to Yukon residents with alcohol and drug addictions, including increased services to Yukon's youth," Nixon said. "It will also lead to improved links between Mental Health Services, other health services and Alcohol and Drug Services."

Subject to legislative approval, the target cost for the facility is just under $21 million. Construction is scheduled to be completed in July 2016.

The new building will feature both expanded capacity and enhanced programming. This will include medically supported detox, a separate youth detox unit, youth stabilization and assessment, concurrent residential treatment for males and females and a continuous intake model.

"Addiction is one of the most serious issues we face today in Yukon. It impacts so much else – health, economic stability, justice. This new building, along with enhanced services and other program changes, is designed to help us help others make a better, more successful life for themselves," Nixon added.

The expanded space and new programming model allows for better integration and collaboration with complementary services such as First Nation health programs, Mental Health Services, Many Rivers Counselling and others.

The Sarah Steele Building, which was built in 1961 as a teacherage, has been modified many times during its lifetime. The new facility will be built on the lots behind the current building. While construction is underway, regular alcohol and drug services programming will continue.

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