



FOR RELEASE

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Hootalinqua and Whitehorse areas to benefit from new fire truck

WHITEHORSE—With the addition of a new \$250,000 pumper tanker for Hootalinqua, the Government of Yukon is continuing with its commitments to strengthen the capacity of the territory's volunteer fire departments, Community Services Minister Elaine Taylor announced today.

"In Yukon we rely on our firefighters, many of whom are volunteers, to protect life and property," Taylor said. "Continued investments in training, equipment and resources help provide these brave men and women with the tools to do their jobs safely."

The new \$250,000 pumper tanker for Hootalinqua can accommodate five fully-equipped firefighters, has 4x4 capabilities, a front-mounted water cannon and an integrated scene lighting system that can illuminate up to two football fields of area.

"I am proud to see this new pumper tanker put into service; all Yukoners benefit from these investments," Yukon Fire Marshal Dennis Berry said. "I would like to thank the Government of Yukon on behalf of the Yukon Fire Service and the 225 volunteers who dedicate their time to protecting rural Yukon."

This is the third truck delivered to the Yukon Fire Service as part of a \$1.18 million investment in fire-fighting equipment. The Golden Horn and Ibex Valley volunteer fire departments also received fire trucks last year. In addition, two new deputy fire marshal positions were created in the Fire Marshal's Office to increase response capability and an additional \$2 million in funding is being provided to municipal fire departments.

"In addition to investments in our fire service, the Government of Yukon has made other strategic investments over the past several years in support of strengthening Yukon's emergency response capacity," Taylor added.

Additional investments include:

- A new \$8 million Emergency Response Centre in Whitehorse;
- Six new ambulances purchased since 2009;
- \$15.4 million invested in Wildland Fire Management;
- \$2.7 million invested in FireSmarting initiatives territory-wide over the last three years; and
- A new \$3.6 million fire hall in Beaver Creek that is currently underway.

For more information visit: www.community.gov.yk.ca.

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