



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Rate increase for continuing care facilities**

WHITEHORSE—Daily user fees at Yukon's four continuing care facilities are set to increase for the first time in 20 years. When the change takes effect on September 1, the fees will cover between 8 and 11 per cent of the actual cost, with the remainder subsidized by government.

"The last fee increase for continuing care was in 1993, despite increasing needs and demands for more service," Health and Social Services Minister Doug Graham said. "We are doing what we can to make sure health care for all Yukoners is sustainable as costs continue to rise."

An increase to rates for continuing care facilities was a recommendation of the 2008 Yukon Health Care Review, which included extensive public and stakeholder consultation.

The new daily rate will be \$35 per day. The actual cost to operate a continuing care bed is between \$310 and \$470 per day, which includes accommodation, meals, nursing, medical supplies and prescription drugs. Currently, the rates are \$18 per day at McDonald and Macaulay Lodges and \$21 per day at Thomson Centre and Copper Ridge Place.

"The number of seniors in Yukon is expected to increase substantially over the next couple of decades and this will mean an increased demand for services and more pressure on continuing care costs," Graham added.

The current rates are the lowest in Canada, excluding Nunavut. After the increase, Yukon will continue to have one of the lowest rates in the country.

The new rates have been set at a level that is affordable to single persons on lower and fixed incomes, and will ensure that residents retain a sufficient amount of disposable income for personal and other items. All residents and their families or guardians have been given three months' notice of the fee increase so they can plan for the change.

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