



FOR RELEASE
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Community infrastructure needs to be front and centre in Ottawa

WHITEHORSE—Community Services Minister and the 2013 chair of the provincial-territorial Ministers Responsible for Local Government Elaine Taylor is meeting today with Canada's Minister responsible for Infrastructure the Honourable Denis Lebel to discuss a new national infrastructure funding program.

"We recognize that stable, flexible, predictable and long-term infrastructure funding is essential for vibrant, healthy and sustainable communities, not only in the North, but in all of Canada," Taylor said. "We value the federal investment in infrastructure over recent years, from coast to coast to coast, and look forward to a new federal infrastructure plan that best meets local needs and priorities through a strong base of flexible funds."

Since 2010, ministers responsible for local government in Canada have worked closely to ensure that the federal government commits to long-term infrastructure funding, recognizing it as necessary for the health of Canada's economy and communities throughout the country.

Over the past several years, Yukon has partnered with Canada on over 60 projects to help address core infrastructure priorities. These projects have supported economic growth and helped to provide real benefits to communities across the territory.

A new federal infrastructure plan is expected to roll out in 2014 and will replace the Building Canada Fund which has resulted in more than \$244 million in joint investments with Canada in support of a range of Yukon projects from major highway and bridge improvements to system enhancements in solid waste, drinking water, and waste water in Yukon communities.

As chair, Taylor will host the annual meeting of provincial and territorial ministers responsible for local government in July 2013. The new national infrastructure funding program, which will replace the Building Canada Fund ending in 2014, will be a key topic at this meeting.

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