



FOR RELEASE
July 9, 2013

Construction contract for new seniors' complex awarded

WHITEHORSE—Construction is set to begin on a new seniors' housing project in Whitehorse, Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation Scott Kent announced. A \$6.7 million contract for construction of the new Alexander Street seniors' housing complex has been awarded to Narrow Gauge Construction, of Whitehorse, by the Department of Highways and Public Works.

"I am very pleased to see this seniors housing project awarded and construction commencing soon," Kent said. "This government remains committed to ensuring our seniors have access to quality, affordable housing."

The four-storey, 34 unit residence will be the first new seniors' housing project constructed with design input from the Yukon Housing Corporation's Accessibility Advisory Committee, which was formed to provide direction on how to build accommodations to better support seniors and people with mobility challenges.

"This housing complex is one of the many projects this government has undertaken to improve the lives of Yukoners," Highways and Public Works Minister Wade Istchenko said. "Other projects currently underway include road and bridge repairs across the territory, as well as various water and sewer projects and upgrades to rural airfields, many of which provide much needed employment to Yukon residents."

The building design incorporates a number of new innovations in the common areas of the residence. Some of these include: a storage area and recharging station for wheelchairs and scooters, which will also act as a heated waiting area for transportation pick up and drop off and a large common room complete with a kitchen to be used as a multipurpose space for celebrations, meetings, personal services for clinics, exercise classes or other similar uses.

"The Alexander Street seniors housing project is a welcomed addition to Yukon Housing Corporation's senior housing properties," Yukon Housing Board chair Claire Derome said. "This building showcases the inclusive approach taken by the corporation at the conceptual and design level, it maximizes space use in the downtown core of Whitehorse and is reflective of the changing needs of our seniors' population. The board is proud to contribute to help more seniors into new safe, comfortable and accessible housing."

Construction is anticipated to commence this summer with completion and occupancy preparation planned for fall 2014.

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News Release #13-169



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