



FOR RELEASE
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Government moves forward with physician recruitment strategy

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon is making it easier for doctors to learn about opportunities in Yukon, Health and Social Services Minister Doug Graham said. The newly-launched www.Yukonmd.ca website provides information on career opportunities, benefits, hospitals, physicians and communities.

"This is a vibrant, engaging website that will provide interested physicians with a wealth of information and contacts if what they need to know isn't there," Graham said today. "This is an important part of our physician recruitment and retention strategy and we are pleased to be able to dedicate the resources to it. In addition, Yukon has been invited to attend the Western Alliance of Physician Recruiters next week in Edmonton.

"This alliance represents Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, which has been incredibly successful in its recruitment efforts. We want to work with those who are the most experienced to make sure we are targeting the appropriate areas," Graham added.

The physician recruitment and retention officer is also expected to travel to Saskatoon to meet with that province's recruitment team and to attend a rural physician conference in Victoria in April.

The minister said a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes since the recruitment and retention officer started the job in January.

"One of our priorities has been to find international medical graduates for Watson Lake but we know it is just as important to recruit physicians for Whitehorse," Graham said. "We are fortunate that a few physicians have stepped forward to assist us in our efforts by travelling with our officer to spread the word about Yukon. We appreciate their support."

Physicians in Yukon are private business people and not employed by government.

"We recognize our responsibility and know we need to do our part to encourage and support the recruitment and retention of physicians to Yukon, both through the introduction of this strategy and the financial incentives that we offer," Graham added.

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