



FOR RELEASE

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## **Yukon's research forest adds new forestry-themed playground**

WHITEHORSE—A new forest-themed playground opens today at the Gunnar Nilsson & Mickey Lammers Research Forest. The playground was built for children aged 2 to 12 years and complements the interpretative trails and educational programs at the research forest. It will be accessible year-round.

The materials and labour to complete the playground represent an \$85,000 investment in the local community and in the educational and recreational potential of the research forest.

"The playground is a great way to get young children interested in the research forest," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Brad Cathers said. "The playground is also the result of efforts by a group of local parents who asked government to build a playground in the Hot Springs Road area, and I would like to thank them for their work."

The playground will be officially opened at an open house today from 2 to 4 p.m. The research forest is located on the North Klondike Highway, one kilometre north of the Takhini River Bridge. Light snacks and refreshments will be available.

"With a young son, my husband and I thought a local playground would be a great addition for the Takhini Hot Springs Road area," local parent and member of the community group Amanda Barnsley said. "The new playground at the research forest will provide recreation and science education opportunities for local kids and will be a great place for families to meet their Mayo Road neighbours while staying active in the outdoors."

Staff from the Forest Management branch will be present at the open house to answer questions and guide people through interpretative trails. The trails, which are suitable for walkers of all ages and fitness levels, vary in length from 600 metres to five kilometres. Visitors are also welcome to explore the trails on their own.

The research forest has been a reserved forest since 1964. In 2000, it was dedicated to Gunnar Nilsson and Mickey Lammers in recognition of their pioneering forest practices. It is currently managed by the Government of Yukon, in cooperation with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

For more information contact the Forest Management branch at 867-456-3999, toll-free 1-800-661-0408 ext. 3999 or visit us online at [www.forestry.gov.yk.ca](http://www.forestry.gov.yk.ca).

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