



FOR RELEASE  
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## **New passenger bridge opens at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport**

WHITEHORSE—The second enclosed passenger bridge at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport is now open, Highways and Public Works Minister Wade Istchenko and Minister of Tourism and Culture Mike Nixon announced.

"The addition of the new passenger bridge will help accommodate increased passenger and airline traffic through our airport," Istchenko said. "We have seen a 94 per cent increase in the number of passengers arriving and departing our airport since 2002, and this bridge is a welcome addition to our facility."

Since 2008, in response to growth in air travel to and from the territory, the Yukon government began a series of projects to improve services at the airport, which include:

- parking lot upgrades and improved access to the air terminal building;
- enhancements to the public waiting areas;
- a new baggage carousel;
- a new passenger hold room that can be utilized as an in-transit lounge for international flights;
- full facility emergency standby power;
- new Canada Border Services Agency inspection facilities; and
- the installation of a second passenger bridge.

All upgrades were designed to support the growing number of travellers who are using the airport facility.

"This new passenger bridge improves security, safety and passenger comfort," Tourism and Culture Minister Mike Nixon said. "This is one of many initiatives that support the Yukon government's promotion of strategic and affordable air access for travelers to the territory."

In 2012, approximately 294,000 passengers used the facility, while an estimated 80,000 visited to meet passengers or utilize airport services.

The bridge supply and installation contract was undertaken through a Yukon Asset Construction Agreement (YACA) between Yukon government and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation.

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