

FOR RELEASE November 26, 2013

## Housing Symposium involves key community stakeholders

WHITEHORSE—A Housing Symposium being held today in Whitehorse will provide direction for the development of a Housing Action Plan for Yukon.

"Today's symposium will set the scene for the planning process that will take place in the coming months," Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation Brad Cathers said. "The participation of so many stakeholders in the symposium demonstrates the dedication and commitment of all involved organizations to building a Housing Action Plan."

Participants will consider proposed topics that working groups will research as the project moves forward. The proposed working group topics each fit within the spectrum of housing needs, including temporary housing, supportive housing, social housing, affordable housing and home ownership.

During the symposium, participants will be invited to join working groups, based on factors such as topical interest and experience.

Seventy-four participants representing a broad cross-section of Yukon societies and nongovernment organizations have registered to attend the day-long symposium.

"The symposium will benefit from this broad-based representation from well-established NGOs," Minister of Health and Social Services Doug Graham said. "These groups are very familiar with the housing and social issues involved and they will add value to this planning process."

Once the symposium confirms the working group topics and their membership, these groups will begin their planning work.

"The task of the working groups will be to identify options for Yukon's housing challenges and integrate those options into an overarching plan that will help guide the actions of governments and other stakeholders in Yukon's housing sector," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent said.

Periodic updates will be provided to the public on the development of the Housing Action Plan, as it progresses.

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News Release #13-298



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