



FOR RELEASE  
August 6, 2013

## **Yukon government partners with First Nations for telecommunications link study**

WHITEHORSE—A bankable feasibility study for an alternate fibre optic telecommunications link to the south is being undertaken through a partnership between the Government of Yukon and First Nations development corporations.

"We are pleased to be partnering with First Nations, led by Dempster Energy Services, for the development of this study," Economic Development Minister Currie Dixon said. "Enhancing the territory's telecommunications infrastructure is a priority for our government and this study is a significant step in that direction."

A bankable feasibility study provides a greater degree of detail and certainty than a regular feasibility study and will enable private investors and government funding agencies to determine the economic and technical feasibility of establishing an alternate fibre optic link from Yukon to the south, primarily based on a route from Whitehorse to Juneau, Alaska.

The Economic Development department's new Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate will provide funding, project management and industry expert support for the study.

"An alternate fibre optic link would improve the availability and reliability of communications services and enable competition and innovation in the telecommunications sector in Yukon," Dixon added. "It would also support our growing knowledge sector and contribute to the diversification of Yukon's economy."

Dempster Energy Services, a partnership comprising the Vuntut business arm 40782 Yukon Inc., Gwich'in Development Corporation, Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation and Chief Isaac Incorporated, will work with Planetworks Consulting Corporation to develop the study. The study is expected to be completed in November.

The Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate works closely with Yukon's information and communications technology businesses and associations to strengthen the sector and improve the territory's telecommunications environment. For more information about the directorate visit [www.economicdevelopment.gov.yk.ca/t2d2.html](http://www.economicdevelopment.gov.yk.ca/t2d2.html).

-30-

Contact:

Matthew Grant  
Cabinet Communications  
867-393-6470  
[matthew.grant@gov.yk.ca](mailto:matthew.grant@gov.yk.ca)

Matthew Cameron  
Communications, Economic Development  
867-456-6529  
[matthew.cameron@gov.yk.ca](mailto:matthew.cameron@gov.yk.ca)