



FOR RELEASE
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Tender call for Alexander Street housing project

WHITEHORSE—The tender call to replace the former Alexander Street seniors' housing complex has been issued by Highways and Public Works.

"Seniors are Yukon's fastest growing demographic," Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation Scott Kent said. "The Yukon government is moving to address the housing needs of seniors and provide high quality, affordable housing options for them as their health and mobility needs change."

The project was designed by Northern Front Studio, a Whitehorse-based architectural design firm. The design process was assisted by Yukon Housing Corporation's Accessibility Advisory Committee, which provided insight into many of the difficulties encountered by seniors and people with mobility challenges. Additional benefits of the Alexander Street location are the proximity to shopping and medical services in the downtown area.

"Accessibility is one of the key values seniors look for in order to live independently," Yukon Housing Accessibility Advisory Committee member Dorothy Drummond, who represents the Yukon Council on Aging, said. "The accessibility features in the new Alexander Street facility will be welcomed by the senior tenants."

Design features include accessible suites with in-suite storage and balconies. The four-storey 34-unit building will include two elevators, common rooms and a large lobby area facing Alexander Street. Parking will be off the lane at the back of the building. Four suites will include wheelchair-accessible showers. The building will be energy efficient and use low maintenance materials to reduce operating and maintenance costs.

"For decades to come, this seniors housing facility will allow seniors to live independently in safe, comfortable and accessible residences," said Yukon Housing Board Chair Claire Derome. "I am certain the tenants will enjoy their new homes very much."

The tender period is expected to be approximately one month and construction is anticipated to commence this summer with completion and occupancy preparation planned for fall 2014.

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