



FOR RELEASE
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Legislative amendments create new municipal domestic water well program

WHITEHORSE—New legislation will allow people living inside municipal boundaries to access the successful rural well program, if their municipality has chosen to participate.

Amendments made to the *Municipal Act* and *Assessment and Taxation Act* extend the opportunity for municipalities to take part in the Rural Domestic Water Well Program. Prior to the amendments the program was open only to property owners outside municipalities.

"The Yukon government is pleased to create this opportunity for residents of participating municipalities to take advantage of funding that will help them drill new water wells," Minister of Community Services Brad Cathers said.

Since 2004 the Rural Domestic Water Well Program has helped provide almost 250 property owners living in unincorporated areas with sustainable and affordable access to drinking water through domestic well development. The program helps property owners drill a new water well, or make improvements to an existing well for domestic use, and allows residents to access low-interest loans that can be paid back over to a maximum period of 15 years.

Loans under this program are fully funded by the Yukon government, but municipalities are required to agree to collect the loan from the property owner using a local improvement charge.

Bill #80 was approved unanimously by the Yukon Legislative Assembly, and it is now open to municipalities to choose whether to sign on to this opportunity. The Yukon government will work with participating municipal partners to communicate and promote the program to eligible residents and is working towards making the new program available in summer 2015.

Learn more:

Visit the Rural Domestic Water Well Program

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Contact:

Elaine Schiman
Cabinet Communications
867-393-6470
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

Bonnie Venton Ross
Communications, Community Services
867-393-6907
bonnie.ventonross@gov.yk.ca

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