



FOR RELEASE
August 6, 2014

Yukon premier offers assistance to the Northwest Territories

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon has extended an offer to the Government of the Northwest Territories to host fellow northern residents affected by forest fires, should it be required.

"It has been a challenging year of forest fires for the Northwest Territories and we understand that their resources are stretched," Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski said. "With that in mind, I contacted Premier McLeod to let him know that our doors are open to our neighbours in the N.W.T."

The Yukon government's Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) is responsible for coordinating Yukon's preparedness for response to and recovery from major emergencies and disasters. EMO remains on stand-by and has an Emergency Coordination Plan.

"The Yukon government's Wildland Fire Management branch has already sent more than 50 personnel to the N.W.T. over the past month to provide assistance and we have received very positive feedback on their performance," Pasloski added. "Should the situation require any temporary relocation of residents, we are prepared to host our neighbours and assist with transportation support."

In an emergency situation, Yukon's EMO mobilizes its Joint Emergency Operations Coordination Centre (JEOCC). This centre is used to coordinate the response to territorial emergencies by working in partnership with governments, agencies and organizations both in and out of the territory.

Premier Pasloski and government officials have contacted their emergency preparedness partners—including RCMP, City of Whitehorse, local First Nations and Council of Yukon First Nations—to inform them of this offer of support to the N.W.T. and to request their assistance should Yukon be called upon.

-30-

Contact:

Elaine Schiman
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

Ben Yu Schott
Communications, Community Services
867-456-6580
ben.yuschott@gov.yk.ca

News Release #14-183