



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon government to proceed with Atlin Lake campground

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon will proceed with building a new campground on Atlin Lake while meeting the wildlife, heritage and fishery recommendations that came out of the assessment process.

"The government is adopting the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's mitigations because we want to minimize the impact the campground will have on the environment and neighbours in the area," Minister of Environment Currie Dixon said.

"In fact, we are taking additional measures to survey the area for bird nests in response to concerns raised by the Carcross/Tagish First Nation during consultation about the project."

The Decision Document outlining the government's decision in detail is now available on the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) online registry (www.yesab.ca/registry).

Construction work on sites, cook shelters, outhouses, walking trails and a playground will begin shortly, with the campground ready for public use in 2015. Plans for the boat launch are on hold until a plan is in place for conserving fish populations in the lake.

In addition to the information collected by YESAB through the assessment process, the Yukon government consulted with the Carcross/Tagish and Taku River Tlingit First Nations on the project in order to identify and understand their concerns.

The measures the government will take to ensure construction and operation of the new campground do not harm the environment include:

- Avoiding land clearing activities in winter when caribou and moose are known to be in the area,
- Developing a human-wildlife conflict response plan as well as taking measures such as education and attractant management, and
- Engaging with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Taku River Tlingit First Nation on any further heritage assessment work to ensure that any identified resources of value are appropriately managed.

The government also recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation that includes the mutual commitment to develop a new campground at the Conrad site on the shores of Windy Arm.

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