



FOR RELEASE

July 11, 2013

## **Watson Lake and Dawson City sign land development protocols with Yukon government**

WHITEHORSE—The Town of Watson Lake and the City of Dawson signed land development protocols with the Government of Yukon during a ceremony held in Whitehorse yesterday.

Signatories of the protocols were Community Services Minister Elaine Taylor and Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Brad Cathers, Dawson Mayor Wayne Potoroka and Watson Lake councillor Thomas Slager.

Each protocol is a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with which the municipalities can plan long-term land development. Under the protocol, the municipalities will identify the areas within their boundaries that could be designated for development within their Official Community Plan (OCP) or other area planning studies.

"These land development protocols are an important achievement for Watson Lake, Dawson and the Government of Yukon," Taylor said. "Guided by their community plans, the towns can now take a direct role in determining where and what kind of future development will be required to meet their future needs."

The Yukon government will work cooperatively with the municipalities in identifying and providing available land within their boundaries for potential territorial, municipal and private sector developments. They will also work together on a public process for the release of developed lots, with the Yukon government continuing to manage lot sales until an alternate is jointly agreed upon. Where the Yukon government is the project developer, it will consult with the municipalities on the method of lot pricing under the regulations of the Lands Act.

"Long-term land development planning is an important part of meeting the future needs of our growing communities. We look forward to working in partnership and in collaboration with Watson Lake and Dawson City," Cathers said.

"Last year, after consulting all members of the community, our Watson Lake Economic Revitalization Commission research identified the lack of available lots as a major impediment to economic development," Watson Lake Mayor Richard Durocher said. "So, we are delighted that the commission has worked closely with the Yukon government to develop this MOU that will speed the lot development process by clarifying the responsibilities of each government, and increasing the options for undertaking developments."

"This protocol brings necessary land planning expertise to Dawson City and will help create much needed residential lots in our community," Potoroka said. "This collaborative undertaking builds on our strong territorial-municipal partnership. On behalf of City of Dawson Council, thanks to everyone who played a role in developing this agreement."

The City of Whitehorse signed the first land development protocol with the Yukon government in 2006. Under this protocol, the Ingram and Whistle Bend subdivisions were developed.

See photo attached.

Contact:

Matthew Grant  
Cabinet Communications  
867-393-6470  
matthew.grant@gov.yk.ca

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

Richard Durocher  
Town of Watson Lake  
867-536-7400

Wayne Potoroka  
City of Dawson  
867-993-7400  
wayne.potoroka@cityofdawson.ca

*News Release #13-172*



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