

FOR RELEASE
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Yukon government improving resource access roads in the Klondike

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon is committing \$450,000 under the Resource Access Road Program (RARP) to upgrade resource roads in the Goldfields area.

"It is a high priority to ensure that resource access roads are in safe driving condition," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent said. "Upgrading these roads means that the exploration and mining industry has the access they need to carry out their work programs, which in turn enhances economic development in Yukon."

The Yukon government provides financial and material support to industry to develop resource access roads in Yukon. Through RARP, resource-based companies can apply for assistance in upgrading existing roads and under certain conditions, RARP can also be used to assist in the development of new roads, airstrips and docks.

"We are working closely with the Klondike Placer Miners' Association to identify the highest priority upgrades needed in the Goldfields area," Kent added.

To help placer miners get an early start on their mining season, highway crews started clearing the access roads in mid-February so the roads could be open to traffic by mid-March.

"The Klondike Placer Miners' Association truly appreciates this additional investment in a region that so many of our membership rely on for our collective success," Klondike Placer Miners' Association president Mike McDougall said. "Under our agreement with the Yukon government, this partnership will see road building material as well as equipment and operator time contributed by placer miners in the area."

The Resource Access Road Program accepts applications for projects that involve upgrading or minor relocation of existing roads. As many resource roads already exist in Yukon, the program is focused on making necessary improvements to the existing road network.

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