

FOR RELEASE
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Government of Yukon proud of investment in community IT infrastructure

WHITEHORSE—Together with Northwestel and Total North Communications, the Government of Yukon is ensuring all Yukoners have access to sufficient internet speeds that will improve education and health care, and increase economic opportunities, in Yukon communities.

A pilot project to put in place a fibre optic Municipal Area Network (MAN) service and expand data capacity in Yukon communities was announced on June 7th. The project and service upgrades will improve capacity, provide faster Internet, and develop and enhance e-services available to residents through schools, health centres and territorial government buildings.

"Our government is very proud of this project and we are dedicated to ensuring local contractors, particularly in the information technology sector, are given the opportunity to provide our territory with exceptional services close to home," said Economic Development Minister Stacey Hassard. "In addition to the tremendous opportunities this will bring to rural Yukon, the project will foster and grow the evolving Yukon IT sector. This is a made-in-Yukon solution—by Yukoners, for Yukoners."

The pilot project will provide:

- Benefits to youth and college students
- Improvements to healthcare outcomes for rural Yukoners by connecting health centres
- Development opportunities for local IT sector

The Government of Yukon's Request for Analysis of Procurement internal process is a required step before government sole sources a contract, as it did in this case.

"This investment is one we're proud to make for our communities and our business sector. A respected local company came up with a great project that will serve Yukon well," Hassard added.

The government investment in this project through funding to Total North is \$1.3 million plus an additional \$2.5 million to Northwestel.

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