



Government of Yukon

Government of Yukon » October 2009 » News Release #09-239

Newsroom

Latest news releases

News by theme

News by department

- Community Services
- Economic Development
- Education
- Energy, Mines and Resources
- Environment
- Executive Council Office
- Finance
- French Language Services Directorate
- Health and Social Services
- Highways and Public Works
- Justice
- Public Service Commission
- Tourism and Culture
- Women's Directorate

News by corporations

- Yukon Development Corporation
- Yukon Energy Corporation
- Yukon Housing Corporation
- Yukon Liquor Corporation
- Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board

Joint news releases

Premier's News

News by date

2017 news releases

- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December

News archive



NEWS release

FOR RELEASE #09-239

October 8, 2009

Canada and Yukon Supports Local and National Trails

WHITEHORSE – The snowmobile trail system and parts of the Trans Canada Trail will be upgraded, thanks to \$40,000 in joint funding from the Governments of Canada and Yukon. The project was coordinated by the National Trails Coalition (NTC) with funding from Canada's Economic Action Plan.

"This announcement is another example of our government following through with our Economic Action Plan," federal Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq said on behalf of Minister of State for Sport Gary Lunn. "This project will undoubtedly give rise to a win-win situation in which communities will thrive from new social and economic development."

The federal government has committed \$25 million to the NTC for 2009-10. Funding is used for projects such as building and renewing multi-purpose trails for walking, running, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, biking, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the federal government is providing funding to enhance Yukon's trail network," Senator Daniel Lang (Yukon) said. "As part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, we are boosting local economies by creating jobs, getting shovels in the ground and enhancing trails for outdoor enthusiasts."

"At times, trail requirements exceed the ability of volunteers to maintain," Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon said. "Under Yukon government's Community Development Fund (CDF), we are pleased to contribute \$20,000 to upgrade certain sections of over 400 kilometers of multi-use trails. Snowmobiling is a very popular sport in Yukon and these upgrades will improve safety and will create local employment opportunities for Yukoners."

"We are very pleased to obtain this funding," Klondike Snowmobile Association president and Trans Canada Trail Yukon representative Mark Daniels said. "The money will go toward upgrades on heavily used sections of our trails that need the most work, including a new culvert, replacement of signage, along with some brushing and grading. We believe these improvements will increase the safety and enjoyment of the trails for all users, and will also improve the marketability of the trail system for nature tourism."

Other Yukon recreational trails receiving NTC funding include the Discovery Claim trail (Klondike Centennial Association), the Tombstone Park trail and Dawson City trail, (Klondike Active Transport and Trails Society), trail network upgrades (City of Whitehorse) and Montana Mountain, (Carcross/Tagish First Nation).

The NTC is a non-profit association whose member organizations provide stewardship of much of Canada's trail infrastructure. The federal government's contribution will be matched by the coalition and its partners.

The CDF is administered by the Yukon Department of Economic Development with an average annual budget of \$3 million. Some CDF projects receive additional funding from other government funding programs along with contributions from proponents.

To find out more about the NTC, visit www.ntc-canada.ca. For more information about the CDF visit www.cdf.gov.yk.ca.

Contact:

Emily Younker
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
emily.younker@gov.yk.ca

Sunny Patch
Communications, Economic Development
867-667-5387
sunny.patch@gov.yk.ca

Blair MacLean
Office of Senator Daniel Lang (Yukon)
613-947-4050
macleb@sen.parl.gc.ca

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From left to right: Mark Daniels, President of the Klondike Snowmobile Association; Russ Hobbis of Blisten Creek Tree Services; Senator Danny Lang and Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon.

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