



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon to host 2013 meeting of ministers responsible for local government

WHITEHORSE—Provincial and territorial ministers responsible for local government today renewed their commitment to support strong and viable communities, placing particular emphasis on the design of a new federal infrastructure plan, incoming chair and Yukon Community Services Minister Elaine Taylor announced.

"Across Canada, we recognize that stable, flexible, predictable and long-term infrastructure funding is essential for vibrant, healthy and sustainable communities, not only in the North, but in all of Canada," Taylor said. "We appreciate the recent years of federal support and investment in infrastructure, from coast to coast to coast, and look forward to a new federal infrastructure plan that best meets local needs and priorities through a strong base of flexible funds."

At this year's meetings in Kananaskis, Alberta, ministers from across Canada met with federal Minister of State (Transport) Steven Fletcher, to relay the importance of collaboration in the design of a new infrastructure plan for Canada that enables provinces and territories, with the input of local First Nations and municipalities, to determine local priorities and needs in order to support local governments, enable broad economic growth and build foundations for future prosperity.

A new federal infrastructure plan is expected to roll out in 2014 and will replace the Building Canada Fund, which has brought more than \$244 million to Yukon for a range of projects from major highway and bridge improvements, to solid waste, drinking water, and waste water system enhancements in Yukon communities.

The meetings of provincial and territorial ministers responsible for local government provides an opportunity for ministers and officials from all 13 provinces and territories to share information, hear from working groups and conduct business geared toward supporting the long-term viability of communities.

The 2013 annual meeting of ministers responsible for local government will be hosted by Yukon and held in Whitehorse from July 9 to 11, 2013, where ministers from across Canada will have the opportunity to see the benefit of joint infrastructure investment firsthand.

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