



FOR RELEASE
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Upper Liard flood assistance package announced

WHITEHORSE—Owners of homes damaged by flooding in Upper Liard in June will be offered an assistance package next week, announced Minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation Scott Kent.

The corporation will provide flood relief assistance, a portion of which will be recovered from the government of Canada through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements program.

"Yukon Housing Corporation has completed assessments of the properties and staff have met with affected residents," Kent said. "I also met with the residents, along with Watson Lake MLA Patti McLeod, to hear first-hand about their situation. We are hopeful that the relief assistance package will help the residents re-establish themselves and continue on with their lives, and will prevent future devastation by flooding in this location."

Thirteen residences were damaged by the June flood in Upper Liard, which also severely damaged government infrastructure.

The corporation is offering two types of compensation, depending on the location of the property. Homes on the western riverbank were not damaged beyond economic repair due to the higher elevation. Damage was primarily restricted to wells and septic systems. Homeowners received technical assistance from Yukon Housing Corporation. They can hire contractors to address the necessary repairs and can qualify for financial assistance.

Homes on the eastern bank of the river were virtually destroyed. As there is a high probability that flooding will reoccur there in the future, the Yukon government is offering to buy these 11 properties, complete the required environmental remediation, and deem the area as flood prone and not suitable for occupancy. The assistance package includes:

- Value of the home and property based on depreciated pre-flood appraisal
- Value of the residential chattel losses
- Allowance for some of the non-residential improvements.

All residents have been contacted to inform them that individual letters of offer will be presented to them early next week. Details of each will depend on specific circumstances.

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