



FOR RELEASE
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Agreement reached on new Comprehensive Municipal Grant program

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon government is poised to roll out a new five-year municipal grant program in 2013-14, Community Services Minister Elaine Taylor announced today.

An agreement reached with the Association of Yukon Communities will provide for an overall increase in annual Comprehensive Municipal Grants as well as a new supplement for municipal structural fire programs.

"The new five-year municipal grant program was developed collaboratively with Yukon's municipal governments on the principles of fairness, transparency and predictability," Taylor said. "The renewed investment in our local governments means more capacity to provide programs and services that reflect local priorities and improve the quality of life for all Yukoners."

The program includes funding being provided as a single annual payment as requested by municipal governments and includes a commitment to review the arrangement every five years.

Pursuant to the new agreement, the Comprehensive Municipal Grants will see an increase to \$18.1 million in 2013-14 from \$16.6 million in 2012-13.

As part of this funding an additional \$400 thousand per year supplement will be included for structural fire protection. This annual funding complements the \$1.9 million announced in May 2012 for the enhancement of fire training, oversight, inspections and fire equipment delivered across Yukon through the Fire Marshal's Office.

"The new Comprehensive Municipal Grant program is a key outcome of the *Our Towns, Our Future* municipal sustainability review, a joint effort by the Government of Yukon and the Association of Yukon Communities, and we are pleased to see this move forward," Association of Yukon Communities president Elaine Wyatt said. "The additional funding for municipal fire services is another welcome addition that will help municipalities to meet their occupational health and safety obligations."

The annual Comprehensive Municipal Grant is flexible and may be used by Yukon's eight municipal governments to support capital and operation and maintenance budgets. Local Advisory Councils in Yukon's unincorporated communities will also receive an annual increase to keep pace with rising costs.

For more information, visit www.community.gov.yk.ca.

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