



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon government donates Whistle Bend lots to Habitat for Humanity

WHITEHORSE—The first Habitat for Humanity duplex in Whistle Bend will soon be constructed for deserving families on lots donated by the Yukon government, Community Services Minister Elaine Taylor and the Minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation Scott Kent announced today.

"We are pleased to work together with Habitat for Humanity to provide land for the construction of adequate and affordable housing for Yukon families," Taylor said. "With the completion of the first phase of the Whistle Bend subdivision, the donation of these lots, and the contributions of the community, two families will achieve their dream of home ownership."

The Yukon government has also committed to providing land in future phases of Whistle Bend to help the non-profit organization provide affordable, sustainable homes to other families through ownership.

"Yukon Housing Corporation is proud of our partnership with Habitat for Humanity in the development of new, affordable housing which is also supported through community involvement, volunteer participation and the good will of sponsors and benefactors," Kent said. "Working together in this way allows us all to contribute to improving housing in Yukon."

"Habitat for Humanity Yukon looks forward to our first Habitat build in the new Whistle Bend subdivision in 2013. The new duplex on Baillie Place will provide home ownership to two more deserving Yukon families, joining the nine other Yukon families that Habitat has assisted with affordable home ownership since 2004," Habitat for Humanity Yukon President Arthur Mitchell said. "Our partnership with the Yukon government is unique in Canada, and is a proven success in helping to address Yukon's affordable housing challenge."

"Whistle Bend is Whitehorse's next major residential subdivision and we are pleased to see Habitat for Humanity play a role in this very important area of our city," Whitehorse Mayor Dan Curtis said. "It is great to see the different levels of government and community organizations working together for the benefit of our citizens."

In 2012/13, the Yukon government allocated a near-record land development budget of more than \$34.8 million to complete phase one of the Whistle Bend subdivision, advance planning for Whistle Bend phases three to eight, and proceed with other land development projects in a number of Yukon communities.

When complete, the Whistle Bend Subdivision will provide accommodation for more than 8,000 residents in nearly 3,900 housing units with full transit service, space for parks and commercial developments, green space and paved and unpaved trails.

Current land development information is available at www.community.gov.yk.ca.

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See backgrounder below.

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Backgrounder

Habitat for Humanity Yukon is a not-for-profit organization that was officially established in September 2004 to provide affordable housing through home ownership.

Since 2005, Habitat for Humanity Yukon and the Government of Yukon, through the Yukon Housing Corporation, have partnered to make home ownership possible for low-income Yukon families who would not qualify for a regular mortgage and for whom home ownership would otherwise be difficult or impossible.

The Yukon Housing Corporation has been involved with Habitat for Humanity construction projects by providing free construction consulting services and guidance on building energy-efficient structures.

For more information on Habitat for Humanity Yukon, visit www.habitatyukon.org.

Habitat for Humanity-Yukon government partnerships:

2012 – Duplex, Lots 32 and 33, Whistle Bend

2012 – Triplex, Lot 135, Ingram

2011 – Triplex, 810 Wheeler Street, Downtown

2010 – Duplex, Keewenaw Drive, Copper Ridge

2006 – Single family unit, Kodiak Place, Copper Ridge

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