



For immediate release
July 22, 2014

Yukon Government approves nearly \$72M for expansion to Whitehorse General Hospital

Whitehorse – Yukon government has approved a significant investment of nearly \$72 million to expand services and facilities at Whitehorse General Hospital.

“Moving ahead with the expansion of WGH is an important milestone and critical project in our effort to continuously support excellent patient care,” noted Craig Tuton, YHC’s Board of Trustees Chair. “It means that when Yukoners do need hospital care, they will have access to the very best care close to home.”

This investment provides for the expansion of the WGH facility, which includes a new emergency department, additional second floor space for future use, an information systems upgrade, much-needed improvements to the hospital’s power infrastructure, and future renovation of its medical imaging area.

“Healthcare is a priority for all Yukoners,” Premier Darrell Pasloski said. “This government committed to build a new emergency department and MRI unit at Whitehorse General Hospital and we continue to deliver on our promises.”

Planning the WGH expansion has been a multi-year effort, noted Jason Bilsky, YHC’s CEO. “This diligence ensures we have modern facilities that can sustain our ability to provide safe and excellent care to Yukoners,” he says. “To date, much work has gone into this initiative, including stakeholder engagement, needs assessment, business case and costing.”

With funding now in place, the focus of the next 12 months will be on planning and design work for expansion, which will start almost immediately. Construction is estimated to begin mid-2015 and will take approximately 30 months to complete.

Whitehorse General Hospital was built on its current site in 1959 and underwent renovations in 1994. The expansion is the first large-scale enhancements to the facility in nearly 20 years.

Contact:

James Low
Yukon Hospital Corporation
(867) 393-8698
james.low@wgh.yk.ca