

FOR RELEASE

July 22, 2003

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**YUKON TELECOMMUNICATION STUDY RELEASED**

WHITEHORSE – “Business has seen significant progress in telecom development in the Yukon” is the finding in the 2002 Yukon Telecommunication Study completed for the Department of Business, Tourism and Culture. However, there is an opportunity to continue to foster competitive infrastructure and services.

“The study showed an improvement in telecommunication in the Yukon and that overall basic services are on par with or ahead of the rest of the country,” Premier and Minister of Economic Development Dennis Fentie said. “The study also identified areas for improvement which government and industry can use to focus our future efforts.”

Completed by Lemay-Yates Associates Inc., of Montreal, the study discusses the present and future needs for telecom services in the Yukon and an assessment of network and infrastructure, competitive choices, competitive entry and the regulatory framework.

The study serves to facilitate development of telecommunications infrastructure and services that meet the needs of Yukon homes and businesses.

The Yukon Telecommunication Study is done every five years. Telecommunication studies were completed in 1992 and 1997. In the 1997 study, completed by Professor Liora Salter, it was observed that the Yukon was behind in the communications industry compared to the rest of Canada.

The study found the overall telephone penetration in the Yukon is on par with or ahead of the rest of the country. In terms of Internet take-up, consumers in the Yukon have tended to lead the rest of the country with penetration at about 50% of households. Internet use by industry varies depending on economic activity.

The 2002 Yukon Telecommunication Study is available on line at [www.economicdevelopment.gov.yk.ca](http://www.economicdevelopment.gov.yk.ca) or copies can be obtained by calling (867) 667-7191.

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