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**GOVERNMENT FUNDS REST STOPS IN TESLIN, BRAEBURN AREA**

WHITEHORSE - The Yukon government is installing rest stops in the Teslin and Braeburn areas for the travelling public. These stops will offer scenic viewing and increased road safety.

The rest stop near Braeburn is being relocated a few kilometres north of its original location on the Klondike highway. While the original site meets the minimum highway distance standards, the relocation was prompted by a number of reported close calls regarding traffic incidents.

“In order to avoid potential serious vehicle collisions, the rest stop is being moved to a more suitable site nearby,” Infrastructure Minister Scott Kent said. “The new location offers better access and turnaround space, as well as excellent wildlife viewing and forest fire interpretation.”

Several nearby sites were considered for the new rest stop. The old “50 mile” pull out area did not meet the minimum site distance requirements and site improvements would be cost prohibitive.

A new Teslin rest stop is being constructed on the north side of the Alaska highway near the bridge overlooking Nisutlin Bay and the village. It is funded under the Rural Road Upgrading Program.

The Yukon government will work in cooperation with the Village of Teslin and the Teslin Tlingit First Nation on site construction, maintenance and interpretation. Local contractors will do the work.

“The viewing spot will let tourists know what Teslin has to offer,” Mayor Orville Smith said. “It will be a real asset to our community and the local businesses.”

The project costs to construct the two rest areas total \$125,000.

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