



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Yukon Company Recognized as Industry Leader in Safety

Arctic Power and Communication Systems Ltd. of Whitehorse, Yukon has become the first Yukon company to receive a Certificate of Recognition (COR) after successful completion of an audit of their safety program.

The COR is jointly issued by the Yukon Construction Safety Association (YCSA) and the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board (YWCHSB).

"This is a first for the Yukon," said Melanie Pettefer, COR Program Coordinator for the YCSA. "We commend Arctic Power and Communication Systems Ltd. for being an industry leader in Yukon occupational health and safety."

"We are proud to be the first Yukon firm to become COR certified," said Jim Dooley, President of Arctic Power. "Safety has always been a priority for our employees and the people who work with us. Our safety program has paid dividends over the years in terms of low accident rates and few worker injuries. The recent audit of our safety program has shown us our strengths and how we can enhance the program even further to increase the level of worker safety. We are fully committed to the COR program and the safety of our workers. I would like to commend supervisors Perry Noseworthy and Dan Bonnycastle as well as Hilary Wilkinson and all employees of Arctic Power for making this possible."

"The first Yukon Certificate of Recognition is historic," said Craig Tuton, Chair of the YWCHSB Board of Directors. "We are very proud to be part of this program, and we are encouraged that many other Yukon companies are working towards their COR certification. I congratulate Arctic Power and the YCSA for advancing safety in Yukon workplaces."

COR is an occupational health and safety certification program developed by the construction industry. It exists in several provinces and has been proven to reduce

workplace injuries. Participants receive standardized training, assistance developing and monitoring their safety programs, and annual audits.

To obtain COR certification, Arctic Power employees completed six days of training including the Principles of Health & Safety Management, Auditor Training and Leadership for Safety Excellence. The company then successfully completed an audit of their safety program, performed by an Auditor approved by the YCSA.

More than 20 other Yukon employers – including contractors, government departments, First Nations and various businesses – are currently working towards COR certification.

Increasingly, construction companies are being required to meet COR standards to be considered for projects. The City of Whitehorse recently announced that starting in 2006, it will require companies bidding on city construction projects over \$500,000 to have COR Certification.

The YCSA started the Yukon COR program in 2003, basing it on Alberta's model and modifying it for the territory.

The YCSA was created in June, 2003, following a contribution agreement signed between the YWCHSB and the Yukon Contractors Association.

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