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LOCAL PHYSICIAN TAKES ON NEW ROLE AS MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WHITEHORSE – Health and Social Services Minister Brad Cathers announced today that Whitehorse physician Brendan Hanley will assume responsibility as Yukon's Medical Officer of Health (MOH) in early February.

"We welcome Dr. Hanley as Yukon's new medical health officer," Cathers said. "Coming to us from his role as emergency physician at Whitehorse General Hospital, and with his many years in Yukon, Dr. Hanley has gained an understanding of the issues he will face in his new role."

Hanley replaces Dr. Bryce Larke who served as Yukon's MOH for seven years. Larke will temporarily remain as the Yukon's representative on several federal/provincial committees.

In addition to his most recent role as Medical Director of the Whitehorse General Hospital Emergency Department, Hanley has extensive previous experience internationally, including with Doctors Without Borders. In 2003 he obtained a Masters degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. He has an interest in many areas of community health and has played an active role locally in injury prevention.

"I am excited about the challenges ahead of me. I believe that the combination of my clinical experience in Yukon, and my training and experience elsewhere will bring an interesting lens onto the issues of importance to Yukoners. And I am privileged to be following such a fine predecessor as Dr. Larke," Hanley said.

"Yukon has been extremely fortunate given the quality of its medical health officers," Cathers said. "Dr. Larke has brought much to the role over his tenure here and we will benefit from that experience in the years to come. Dr. Hanley will bring his own style to the role of medical officer of health and I am confident that Yukon's public health system remains in good hands."

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