

FOR RELEASE #06-071  
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**PREMIER FENTIE TABLES 2006-07 BUDGET**

WHITEHORSE - The Government of Yukon's 2006-07 Capital and Operations and Maintenance budget, totaling over \$793 million, was tabled today in the Yukon Legislative Assembly by Premier Dennis Fentie.

"This budget continues our mandate commitment to build a vibrant economic future for Yukoners," Fentie said. "The 2006-07 budget confirms our commitment to restore investor confidence in our resource sector, enhance tourism, and to diversify and expand Yukon's economy."

The upcoming fiscal year's capital budget totals \$191.7 million and the operations and maintenance budget totals \$601.3 million.

"Our budget reflects a balanced vision for our territory based upon the fundamental principles of strong fiscal management, cooperative, collaborative government, a balance between the economy and the environment, and a strengthening of our social fabric," Fentie added.

The 2006-07 Yukon government budget is available on the government's website, <http://www.gov.yk.ca/>. Printed versions of the budget will also be available at the Inquiry Desk in the main administration building in Whitehorse, and at Territorial Agents and government offices in the communities.

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Attachment: Budget highlights

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## **ATTACHMENT – BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

- \$8.7 M to complete the \$31M Athletes Village.
- \$200 K for Taku subdivision, Tagish, second access.
- \$100 K for Carcross townsite second access.
- \$50 K for Old Crow water well repairs.
- \$4.4 M for Carmacks sewage treatment.
- \$2.5 M for Dawson City sewage treatment.
- \$320 K for fire hall upgrades in Carcross, Tagish and Golden Horn.
- \$200 K for territory wide water and sewer improvements.
- \$700 K for continuation of the Domestic Water Well Program.
- \$250 K for Hamilton Boulevard extension planning, centre line, brushing work.
- \$3.15 M for Mayo community centre.
- \$1.2 M for Marsh Lake community centre.
- \$700 K for Mount Sima Chalet project.
- \$1 M for Firesmart fuel reduction safety projects.
- \$100 K for EMO Rescue Boat Safety Program for Southern Lakes.
- \$955 K for Motor Vehicles Branch computer system upgrade.
- \$232 K to investigate options for Army Beach area potable water supply.
- \$300 K to upgrade volunteer fire department fire tanker fleet.
- \$2.25 M to complete Copper Ridge subdivision development.
- \$7.97 M for Whitehorse / Mount Sima Road area subdivision development.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- \$6.6 M for five funding programs, including \$3.3M for Community Development Fund projects.
- “Pathways to Prosperity” strategic planning exercise.
- \$70 K to host F/P/T Northern Development Ministers Forum.
- \$150 K to host International Film Festival.
- Dempster Corridor strategy economic development plan.
- \$1.7M for completion of the Rail Feasibility Study.
- \$77.5 K for Economic Forestry Assessment.
- \$550 K for Northern Town filming.
- \$61 K for Destination Carcross.
- \$60 K for Small Business Opportunity Development Program, Raising Our Game.

## **EDUCATION**

- \$300 K for F.H. Collins industrial arts wing ventilation.
- \$360 K for speed skating oval at F.H. Collins.
- \$300 K for Vanier Catholic Secondary School roof repair.
- \$6.775 M for Tantalus School in Carmacks.
- \$305 K for school cultural program activities.
- \$674 K for Education Reform.
- \$200 K for Student Financial Grant indexing.
- \$1.4M for Porter Creek Secondary School cafeteria expansion and renovations.
- \$1.5 M for Community Training Funds.

## **ENERGY, MINES & RESOURCES**

- Continuation of the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit.
- \$708 K to establish Secretariat to manage new placer regulatory regime.
- \$1.2 M to establish the Energy Solutions Centre as unit of EMR.
- Facilitating major mine permitting processes.
- Strategic action planning for Alaska Highway Pipeline.
- \$100K to host the National Energy & Mines Ministers conference.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

- \$180 K for the Biophysical Land Classification and Mapping Project.
- \$20 K for campground well water monitoring and testing.
- Species at Risk management plans.
- Chisana Caribou Recovery Project.
- Special Management Areas, parks and Habitat Protection Area planning.

## **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICE**

- \$100 K for the Yukon Forum.
- \$910 K for community-based language initiatives.
- \$50 K for VGFN for protection of the habitat of Porcupine Caribou Herd.
- \$7.311M for land claims funding.
- \$2 M for Substance Abuse Action Plan initiatives.

## **FINANCE**

- Submissions to the Federal Expert Panel on Equalization and Territorial Funding Formula and Provincial panels on Fiscal Imbalance.
- Auditor General's compliments on Government of Yukon accounting practices.
- Four year financial projection for balanced budgets.
- Administration of \$1 M Energy Rebate Program.

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

- \$29 M for Health Care Agreement: Territorial Health Access Fund and Territorial Medical Travel Fund.
- \$750 K for community nursing station upgrades.
- \$345 K for purchase of three ambulances.
- \$100 K for Continuing Care Needs Assessment.
- Agreement with Canada Health Infoway.
- Additional physicians: 1 surgeon and 2 general practitioners.
- Increase to Pioneer Utility Grant.

## **HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC WORKS**

- \$34.75 M for Shakwak - Alaska Highway & Haines Road reconstruction projects.
- \$5.3 M primarily for Alaska Highway Bridge rehabilitation projects.
- \$2.1 M for Dempster Highway improvements.
- \$1.65 M for South Campbell Highway improvements.
- \$2.3 M for Atlin Road improvements.
- \$5.28 M for Mobile Communications Solution (MOCs) including cell phone service.
- \$290 K for implementation of Road/Weather Information System projects.
- \$2.05 M for Whitehorse area Alaska Highway pavement rehabilitation.
- \$1.6 M for renovations and expansion to Whitehorse Airport.
- \$1.2 M for Whitehorse Airport parking lot improvements.

## **JUSTICE**

- \$1 M for development of new correctional infrastructure as per Consultation on Corrections Final Report.
- \$130 K for Northern Institute of Justice feasibility study.
- Implementation of Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods legislation.
- Crystal Meth education series.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

- \$1.382 M for Investing in Public Service initiative.
- Grad Corps to facilitate the hiring of Yukon post-secondary students.
- Recognizing Public Service excellence.
- Healthy Employees and Workplaces Unit.
- Support for Professional Development and Technical Training for employees.
- Workplace Diversity Employment Office.

## **TOURISM AND CULTURE**

- \$1 M for Canada Winter Games national marketing campaign.
- \$500 K for Tourism Co-operative Marketing Fund.
- \$260 K for joint Yukon / Alaska marketing program with ATIA.
- \$264 K for adventure marketing program with WTAY.
- \$200 K for Yukon Convention Bureau tourism marketing program.
- \$118 K for Tourism North Marketing Consortium program.
- \$150 K for Yukon Quest media coverage and winter tourism marketing.
- \$200 K for implementing the Yukon Brand Strategy.
- \$250 K for website development and E-marketing.
- \$50 K for Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous.
- \$400 K for MacBride Museum expansion.
- \$71 K for Rampart House Historic Site development.
- \$70 K for Forty Mile Historic Site development.
- \$200 K to assist Yukon museums to meet special project needs.
- \$200 K to enhance cultural opportunities for CWG and Sport Fund.

## **WOMEN'S DIRECTORATE**

- \$100 K for Aboriginal women's groups to support Aboriginal Women and Violence Initiative.
- \$140 K for increased commitment to seven grassroots women's organizations.
- \$25 K for Women's Health Forum.
- \$19 K for public education about violence prevention and women's equality issues.
- Establish First Nations Liaison Coordinator position.
- Leadership training and skills development for women.
- Public education campaign on violence against women and children.

## **YOUTH DIRECTORATE**

- \$200 K for youth programs in communities funded through a contribution to Crime Prevention Yukon.
- \$355 K to fund 4 Whitehorse youth groups, including the Francophone youth group "Comité Espoir Jeunesse".

## **YUKON HOUSING CORPORATION**

- \$7.35 M for Home Ownership Program.
- \$2 M for Canada-Yukon Affordable Housing Agreement.
- \$1.7 M to stimulate private sector housing development.
- \$2.5 M for energy efficiency through the Home Repair Program.
- \$100 K for Seniors Housing Management Fund.