

FOR RELEASE # 07-050

April 5, 2007

MUNICIPAL FUNDING PROCESS TO BE REVIEWED

WHITEHORSE – Community Services Minister Glenn Hart is initiating a review to examine funding for local community governments in relation to the delivery of their programs and services responsibilities.

“As the Yukon economy continues to recover and grow, it is a good time to look at the suitability of funding for municipal governments,” Hart said. “With the addition of the Gas Tax revenue, as well as the opportunities provided through grants and the MRIF program for local infrastructure, there are a number of additional financial influences to consider in context.”

The purpose of the funding review is to work with the Association of Yukon Communities (AYC) to consider the real-world fiscal demands they presently have related to the programs and services they provide to their citizens, and to identify possible areas of improvement.

Hart noted this review is important and he has made it a priority for his department. “I believe that by working together with AYC we could have the review and due diligence completed by the end of the summer. We are moving this process forward now to ensure the fiscal capacity of the communities is appropriate,” Hart added.

The Department of Community Services supports the orderly establishment and operation of effective local governments; administers the provision of various grants to municipalities and local advisory areas; and assists with local governance initiatives and operations. The department works directly with municipalities in matters of statutory obligations, provision of advice and assistance on a variety of matters, interpretation of legislation, council/administration roles and relationships, administration of elections, and other community related matters.

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