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GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR ARTS AND HERITAGE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

WHITEHORSE – The Government of Yukon is moving forward with an arts and heritage village development plan for the Whitehorse waterfront, said Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor.

“The arts and business communities in Whitehorse have presented government with a compelling vision of what could be developed on government owned land at the foot of Main Street,” Taylor said.

“Together with the planned development of a Kwanlin Dün First Nation Cultural/Heritage Centre and the \$19 million investment under the Canadian Strategic Infrastructure Fund, this initiative will provide yet another critical component in the long-awaited development of the Whitehorse waterfront,” Taylor added.

The government is investing \$60,000 through the Department of Economic Development for the development plan of the arts and heritage village concept. The plan will be undertaken by the Artspace North Society and the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce.

The development plan will include a business strategy, cost estimates, an economic impact analysis and an outline of potential use. Artspace North will serve as the project administrator responsible for managing finances and consultants’ contracts and the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce will chair the steering committee.

“We are very pleased to partner with Artspace North and government on this plan. It’s a great opportunity for all parties to work together. First Nations, the city, the business community and the cultural sector all share interests in this development designed to enhance visitation to our territory and contribute to economic growth,” Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce president Rick Karp said.

In response to requests from the business and cultural communities, government will also undertake a consultation on the development of a usage policy for the five heritage buildings owned by government along the Whitehorse waterfront. The usage policy will be designed to ensure these five properties contribute to the vitality that is envisioned for the area.

The final development plan report will be completed by December 2005. Government will then review the document and make final decisions on the arts and heritage village concept.

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