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YUKON SIGNS CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FOR LOCAL MINI-SERIES

WHITEHORSE – *Northern Town* will be the first production to benefit from the new Yukon Film Production Fund announced Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon today. The Yukon government has signed an agreement with *Northern Town* producers, Daniel Janke and Daniel Iron of Tagish Lake Films, to complete the financing for the six-part television series.

“On behalf of the Yukon government, I am very proud to help further the Yukon film industry,” Kenyon, the minister responsible for the Yukon Film and Sound Commission said. “The Yukon is increasing its ability to deliver a broad spectrum of film-related infrastructure, skills and services to industry.”

The Film Production Fund is one of many programs designed to increase the level of total independent film, television and documentary productions in the Yukon.

“We are all very excited to start shooting for *Northern Town*,” writer and producer Daniel Janke said. “This series is the first to be written, produced and filmed in Yukon. The Yukon Film Incentive programs are an important part of the equation making it possible to shoot the entire series here in Yukon.”

The story for *Northern Town* is written by Yukon resident Daniel Janke. Don McKellar came on board as story editor. Toronto writers Bob Martin, artistic director of Second City Toronto, and Kate Miles joined as script co-writers.

The series is a Yukon /Ontario co-production and is being produced in cooperation with CBC Television, Canadian Television Fund, Telefilm Canada and the Yukon Film Production Fund. The partners, Northern Town Films of Whitehorse and Foundry Films of Toronto, are scheduled to begin production of the series this month.

“Each episode of *Northern Town* will showcase the Yukon to millions of Canadian viewers,” Yukon Film and Sound Commissioner Margarita Ramon said. “This is a \$3.3-million production. Our contribution will be based on 30 per cent of what the production actually spends in the Yukon during production up to \$450,000.”

The Yukon government committed \$675,000 to five different film incentive programs. These funds are designed to stimulate film and television production activity as well as encourage professional development in the territory.

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