

FOR RELEASE #06-068
March 29, 2006

YUKON TO INVEST \$5.82M IN IMPROVING COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS

WHITEHORSE – Glenn Hart, minister of Community Services and Highways and Public Works, today has announced that for the third year \$5.82 million dollars is being requested in the 2006-07 capital budget, which will be invested to replace, upgrade and modernize the government’s computer equipment and applications, including a new system for the Motor Vehicle program.

“The existing Motor Vehicle system is more than 20 years old, uses mainframe technology, and is not integrated to share, validate and access the important data we need,” Hart said. “To this end I am pleased to announce that, pending budget approval, we will invest \$995,000 in a range of new computer equipment, driver records licensing and database system upgrades for the Motor Vehicles program.”

Like the Motor Vehicles system, all of government’s computers, network hardware and systems require periodic upgrades to support departmental programs and services, while meeting operational and legislative requirements. New systems and online services will also provide new opportunities for future service delivery options.

“We have had very positive feedback from the public following the introduction of online service features such as BizPal and the vehicle re-registration last year. We are looking to the future for more electronically delivered services or e-government options,” Hart added. “We are also moving towards the digital driver’s license format, and these computer investments will help facilitate the introduction of this new technology here in the Yukon.”

The next generation of computer systems will also provide enhanced security for protecting personal information of Yukoners.

Improved Information Technology (IT) infrastructure continues to support future service delivery; offers more programs and services electronically; and enhances economic growth of the IT sector in the Yukon.

-30-

Contact:

Peter Carr
Cabinet Communications
(867) 667-8688
peter.carr@gov.yk.ca

Doug Caldwell
Community Services
(867) 667-8065
doug.caldwell@gov.yk.ca

Carmen Ingram
Highways and Public Works
(867) 456-3825
carmen.ingram@gov.yk.ca