



**Budget Address
2010 - 2011**

presented by
Premier

Dennis Fentie

**First session of the Thirty-Second
Yukon Legislative Assembly**

**Whitehorse, Yukon
March 25, 2010**

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, it gives me great pleasure today to table the 2010 – 2011 Budget, the fourth budget of our second mandate.

This budget will help build Yukon's future.

The Government of Yukon's Budget for 2010 - 2011 is \$1 billion and \$75.042 million.

The Operations and Maintenance Budget totals \$811.9 million, of which \$99.6 million is recoverable.

The Capital Budget total is \$263.5 million, of which \$143.9 million is recoverable.

Like the 2009 – 2010 Budget, this budget exceeds the 1 billion threshold.

PRACTICING GOOD GOVERNMENT

Mr. Speaker, since taking office in 2002, the Yukon Party government has undertaken a number of major initiatives that are changing the lives of Yukoners for the better, whether it be in relation to education, justice, the environment, energy, health and social services, or the economy.

Mr. Speaker, actions speak louder than words.

Oft times, governments conduct major studies that sit on a shelf and are never implemented.

That is not the case with the major Yukon Party government initiatives

One such initiative is the Education Reform Project. The Education Reform Project Final Report was released in February 2008. It was 30 months in the making and contained 153 recommendations.

The purpose of the Education Reform Project was to engage First Nation governments, citizens and other partners in education to effect positive, sustainable change in the education system in the Yukon for the benefit of all Yukoners.

The Department of Education is currently implementing its new vision for education in the Yukon, entitled “New Horizons: Honouring Our Commitment to the Future.” “New Horizons” reflects the outcome of the Education Reform Project consultations, prior consultations as well as current research and knowledge of best practices.

We are creating an education system that will engage, evolve and transform in order to meet the expectations, needs and demands of the ever-changing world we live in.

A second major initiative was the Corrections Consultation that commenced in November of 2004 and concluded in March 2006.

This fifteen month territorial wide public consultation on the future direction of the correctional system in the Yukon was co-chaired by the Government of Yukon and the Council of Yukon First Nations.

The Corrections Consultation revealed twenty major issues ranging from accountability, motivation, rehabilitation and healing, to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) to programs at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

It resulted in a new philosophy of corrections that emphasizes the protection of the public, holds offenders accountable and provides appropriate opportunities for rehabilitation.

This new philosophy is reflected in the new *Corrections Act*, and all our new facilities.

The Corrections Consultation also led to the development of the Victims of Crime Strategy and the draft *Victims of Crime Act* that is being proposed. We are working to ensure that victims of crime, especially women, have access to the services they need.

The Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan was another major undertaking by our government that focused on four-strategic directions:

- Education and prevention;
- Harm reduction;
- Treatment; and
- Enforcement.

The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Office (SCAN) and the Street Crime Reduction Team are two very successful and effective initiatives emanating from the Substance Abuse Action Plan.

On the environmental front, our government addressed the global issue of climate change through the preparation of the Government of Yukon Climate Change Strategy that was adopted on September 5th, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, on February 12, 2009, our government released its Climate Change Action Plan.

The Action Plan recognized many actions already underway and set out 33 new or enhanced actions the Government of Yukon will undertake in support of enhancing knowledge and understanding of climate change, adapting to climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and leading Yukon's action in response to climate change.

One of the key actions was to establish a Yukon Climate Change Research Centre of Excellence at Yukon College in keeping with the commitment outlined in the Climate Change Action Plan.

The doors to the Yukon Climate Change Research Centre of Excellence were officially opened on October 21, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, the Climate Change Action Plan is inextricably linked to another major government initiative, the Energy Strategy for Yukon.

In fact, both the Climate Change Action Plan and the Energy Strategy for Yukon were developed at the same time to help ensure they dealt with common issues in a consistent manner. The Energy Strategy for Yukon was released on January 23, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, energy is key to Yukon's future and our government is wasting no time in following through on implementing many of the priority actions outlined in the Energy Strategy.

One of the Yukon Party's 2006 election platform commitments was to work towards the development of a territorial-wide electrical grid.

Connecting the Whitehorse-Aishihik-Faro (WAF) grid to the Mayo-Dawson grid by completing the Carmacks to Stewart transmission line and upgrading the Mayo hydro facility is the first project approved under the Government of Canada's Green Infrastructure Fund.

The Government of Canada has agreed to provide up to \$71 million for the completion of this \$160 million project for the transmission line extension and new hydro facility known as Mayo B.

Expanding hydrogenerated power will reduce our current carbon footprint by 50% displacing 50,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

Forecasts indicate that without this project, \$20 million of diesel will be needed annually by 2012 to meet the projected demand.

It is expected that the project will reduce forecast diesel generation in 2012 by over 40%.

Solid Waste Management is another major environmental initiative being undertaken by our government.

The Department of Community Services worked with EBA Engineering to conduct a Comprehensive Solid Waste Study of all Yukon facilities, with an objective to identify ways to standardize and modernize Yukon's waste management activities.

The "Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan" was subsequently tabled in this House on November 5, 2009.

It sets out how we can improve our infrastructure and services and take advantage of new opportunities for sustainable waste management.

Mr. Speaker, in April 2008, our government commissioned another major review, the Yukon Health Care Review, to examine the sustainability of Yukon's health care system over the next decade.

The Yukon Health Care Review Final Report was completed in September 2008 and contained 43 recommendations under the heading of Actions for Change.

Yukoners want to see a stronger emphasis on recruitment and retention of health care professionals; emphasis on and integration of prevention, education and wellness programs; better long-term care, homecare and community based options; more collaborative and alternative health care options; and some carefully planned private/user fee health care services.

Mr. Speaker, our government is acting on the findings of the Health Care Review.

On February 17, 2010 the Health Care Review Oversight Committee met to discuss the launching of a new initiative, a Wellness Strategy for Yukon.

The Wellness Strategy will be a broad overarching framework, within which there will be specific areas of focus, namely:

- Children and Youth;
- Healthy aging; and
- Social Inclusion.

It will include actions that support such things as physical activity, healthy eating, healthy body weights and other action areas yet to be identified.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned Social Inclusion in relation to the Wellness Strategy.

Social Inclusion in itself is another major new Yukon government strategy that is currently in the developmental stage. Quite possibly it will be the most significant social policy initiative in the history of the Yukon government.

Mr. Speaker, Social Inclusion doesn't just involve poverty, it includes access to housing, education, health, social services and other services.

The strategy will be developed in collaboration and have specific and measurable goals and objectives; be evidence based; and be premised upon a commitment to constant improvement, accountability and renewal.

A Social Inclusion Symposium will be held in Whitehorse, and interested parties can visit the website at www.abetteryukon.ca for more information or to register for the symposium.

Mr. Speaker, during this period of global economic uncertainty, our government took action to meet this economic challenge by making strategic investments that provide economic stimulus both in the short term and in the long term.

We focused our efforts on diversification by promoting natural resource development, film and sound, research and development, information technology, tourism, trade, arts and culture, agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, trapping and outfitting, and small business development.

Mr. Speaker, there is economic strength in diversity.

Mr. Speaker, we made these strategic investments with the help of Yukoners through the good work of two Deputy Minister Committees chaired by me in my capacity as Minister of Finance.

The Deputy Minister Oversight Committee on the Economy was mandated to monitor and assess economic trends, identify and analyze Yukon opportunities to address impacts, and identify key strategic options.

The Deputy Minister Committee on Major Capital Projects provided advice on the implementation of our government's capital investment plan for Yukon with the priority objective of ensuring maximum benefit to Yukon.

These committees sought advice from a broad spectrum of economic stakeholders in Yukon and their advice informed a great deal of our 2009-2010 Budget and our 2010-2011 Budget I have tabled here today.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Minister Oversight Committee on Major Capital Projects, working with the Department of Finance, has allowed us to table a budget that includes a Multi-Year Capital Plan.

This plan provides a schedule of specific Capital project priorities to which our government is committed.

In addition, this plan identifies our commitment to stable, predictable investments in some key sectors of our economy.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to a three year plan of annual core expenditures related to Information Technology initiatives of \$6.5 million, Capital Building Maintenance projects of \$12 million, and \$15 million for Land Development.

The plan also provides for a minimum of \$40 million for Highways and Airports with the flexibility to adjust priorities in response to emerging priorities and other commitments.

Mr. Speaker, there are three other major initiatives involving relationships that our government has undertaken since taking office that are transforming our territory and improving the lives of Yukoners.

The first involves our government's relationship with First Nations.

That relationship is defined by the treaties and by our partnership approach to the three First Nation governments that have not yet attained a treaty.

We promote cooperative governance with Yukon First Nation governments based on mutual respect of each others' jurisdiction in order to ensure the better operation of all governments in the territory with the objective of providing benefits, reducing barriers and providing more cost-effective services for all Yukon citizens.

Further, Mr. Speaker, under our watch since 2002, three Yukon First Nations reached final agreements – the Kluane First Nation, the Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the Carcross Tagish First Nation.

This government to government relationship has produced a number of accomplishments; namely:

- the establishment of the Yukon Forum involving the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nation governments;
- the re-establishment of the Intergovernmental Forum involving the Government of Canada, the Government of Yukon and all fourteen Yukon First Nations governments;
- the allocation of funds under major federal initiatives such as the \$50 million Northern Housing Trust, the \$40 million Northern Strategy Fund and the \$27 million investment in Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development (SINED);
- Support for Yukon First Nations in negotiating new self-government Financial Transfer Agreements with the Government of Canada to properly fund Final Agreement Implementation Plans; and
- Showcased Yukon First Nations culture at both the 2007 Canada Winter Games and the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.

These are just some of the achievements the Government of Yukon and First Nation governments have attained by working together.

Mr. Speaker, the second major initiative involving relationships concerns the development of a pan-northern approach with our two sister territories in dealing with the federal and provincial governments and in marketing the North.

Under this pan-northern approach, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were successful in creating the five-year Territorial Health Access Fund and its two-year extension. We were also successful in negotiating the retention of the extremely important Territorial Funding Formula for the three territories; marketing the North at the 2007 Canada Winter Games; and most recently the establishment of Northern House at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games.

Mr. Speaker, the third major relationship initiative involves the Yukon Legislative Assembly itself.

We made a commitment to make the legislature work better and our government is following through on a number of initiatives to make that happen.

Examples include establishment of all-party committees of the legislature to conduct public consultation on Anti-smoking, Human Rights and Whistleblower Protection legislation.

The report of the Select Committee on Anti-Smoking legislation led to the passage of the *Smoke-Free Places Act* in 2008.

Similarly, the Select Committee on Human Rights presented a report to the Assembly recommending changes that were included in the *Act to Amend the Human Rights Act* that was passed in the 2009 spring legislative sitting.

Currently, Mr. Speaker, three more Select Committees have been established to deal with matters of importance to Yukoners, namely:

- The Select Committee on the *Landlord and Tenant Act*;
- The Select Committee on Bill#108, *Legislative Renewal Act*; and
- The Select Committee on the Safe Operation and Use of Off-road Vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important to note that the 31st and 32nd Legislative Assemblies have passed more unanimous motions than any previous Legislative Assembly since the inception of party politics in 1978.

All Members of this House should take pride in this fact as it is a clear demonstration of the Assembly's will to make the legislature work better.

Mr. Speaker, practising good government also means meeting our government's obligations to Yukon's francophone community.

The French Language Services Directorate (FLSD) is continuing to increase our government's capacity to deliver French language services.

PROMOTING A STRONG, DIVERSIFIED PRIVATE-SECTOR ECONOMY

Mr. Speaker, one of our key election platform commitments was to: “continue to utilize government budgets and policies to stimulate the private sector economy and promote the development of balanced budgets for the future”.

That commitment is being met.

Capital spending in Yukon for the 2010-2011 fiscal year is going to be over \$600 million when the capital projects of the private sector and other governments and agencies are included.

Mr. Speaker, a good portion of this unprecedented level of capital investment is flowing from a variety of federal funding initiatives under Canada’s Economic Action Plan.

Our challenge as a government is to capitalize as much as possible on the Government of Canada’s economic stimulus funds that expire on March 31, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, it’s a case of “use it or lose it” and we plan to use it all to obtain maximum benefits for Yukoners.

The other major portion of this unprecedented \$600 million investment for 2010 – 2011 is flowing from Yukon’s rejuvenated mining sector with an estimated contribution of \$229.8 million.

The Yukon has a long history of mining with the mineral industry forming the foundation of the territory’s private sector economy for over a century.

History is about to repeat itself.

The Yukon is expected to have three operating hard rock mines by this summer.

Mr. Speaker, this is a major achievement for the Yukon, with mining now fully back in the territory as one of the prime economic generators.

The three mines are Minto, Wolverine and Bellekeno.

The Wolverine mine is a \$250 million investment and, the Bellekeno mine is a \$50 million investment - both anticipate production later this year.

It was “The Year of the Yukon”, at the 2010 Mineral Exploration Roundup held in Vancouver in January and Yukon established a considerable presence at the 2010 Prospectors and Developers Association Mining Convention held in Toronto in early March. This convention is the largest mining showcase of its kind in Canada with some 22,000 delegates.

While it is still too early to predict the level of exploration in the territory this year, indications are that it is going to be another good year with exploration expected to exceed \$150 million.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources have done a stellar job in marketing Yukon both nationally and internationally.

These two departments formed a Mining Investment Promotion Team (MIPT) and created a new mining/web-portal, *miningyukon.com* that was launched in January.

The portal focuses on attracting mining investment to Yukon and contains a wide range of information from community engagement to geological data to job training.

Our governments’ marketing initiatives in China over the years are now paying off.

The Yukon now has a sister-province relationship with China’s Shaanxi Province and two Chinese companies have purchased Yukon Zinc’s Wolverine Project.

In addition, Selwyn Resources and a Chinese zinc and lead producer have established a new joint venture to advance Yukon’s Selwyn project, one of the largest undeveloped zinc and lead deposits in the world located in eastern Yukon overlapping the Yukon-NWT border.

Mr. Speaker, the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games provided Yukon with an opportunity to reach a world-wide market and we made the most of it.

Our government sponsored several business and investment events including:

- a mining investment attraction called “A Mine Altering Experience”;
- The Yukon First Nations Artisan Market and Business Showcase in partnership with the Yukon Indian Development Corporation and the Council of Yukon First Nations; and
- Hosting international media and travel trade representatives in Yukon to experience iconic winter events centred on Yukon tourism, culture, sport and economic development.

Yukon visual artists and performers, Arctic Sport and Dene Games athletes, youth ambassadors, Yukon First Nation elders and cultural presentations entertained and educated southern audiences.

Yukon's presence at Canada's Northern House and the Aboriginal Pavilion also provided golden opportunities to share our culture, sport and business sectors with a world audience.

Mr. Speaker, we are making the most of these opportunities by continuing to market Yukon by:

- providing incentives to business and industry;
- developing a trained and skilled workforce;
- promoting economic diversification; and
- investing in community, transportation and communication infrastructure.

The Department of Tourism and Culture is investing \$750,000 in the Destination Yukon cooperative marketing campaign designed to increase awareness of Yukon as a travel destination from our key target markets of Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Toronto to attract more Canadian visitors to the Yukon.

The department is contributing \$700,000 to the Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund to market trade-ready tourism businesses, First Nation governments, municipal governments, tourism organizations, and other stakeholders to prospective visitors around the world.

Tourism and Culture is providing \$170,000 for the purchase and development of displays to promote Yukon at various travel trade and consumer shows and events as well as in the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport Terminal Building.

A key attraction will be the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre and new public library that will become the centerpiece in the development of the Whitehorse Waterfront with a \$10.3 million investment in this budget.

The Department of Economic Development is playing its part through a \$250,000 contribution that starts in 2009-2010 for the Yukon Entrepreneur Support Program that specifically targets start-up businesses providing assistance and support similar to the Yukon Business Development Program.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is playing an important role in promoting mining by providing \$1.8 million, second-year funding at this level for the very popular Yukon Mining Incentive Program.

Core libraries support mineral exploration and provide valuable information to enable stewardship and sustainable development of the territory's mineral, energy and land resources.

Work on the new \$3.775 million Yukon Core Library will identify options for increased secure storage for current and future specimens as well as for the storage of equipment required for geological field research.

Our government is utilizing various funding programs to ensure Yukoners have the necessary training to take advantage of employment opportunities.

Some examples include:

- \$4.375 million under the Labour Market Development Agreement for the design and delivery of skills development and employment programs funded under the Employment Insurance Program;
- \$1.5 million under the Community Training Fund for non-government organizations and First Nations to provide employment training; and
- \$1.457 million under the Labour Market Agreement to provide programming for unemployed and under employed clients including social assistance recipients, older workers, youth and persons with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, our government restored the Community Development Fund (CDF) that supports projects and events that provide long-term sustainable economic or social benefit to Yukon communities.

The Department of Economic Development through its funding programs has been working hard to diversify the Yukon economy by supporting industries in addition to mining and tourism.

The Yukon Film and Sound Commission will create 13 one minute webisode commercials advertising Yukon as a premier wilderness and snow filming location.

The project was approved for \$535,000 in funding from the Community Adjustment Fund of CanNor for 2010-2011 with the Government of Yukon contributing an additional \$90,000.

The project will employ and train over 40 Yukon film industry members and will result in a marketing piece for the Film and Sound Commission that will be broadcast at trade events and through various traditional news media outlets.

Through the Yukon Sound Recording Program \$50,000 has been awarded to Yukon artists to build and sustain Yukon's arts and culture industry helping artists expand their careers and take their products to new markets.

Our government continues to invest heavily in transportation infrastructure: highways, roads, bridges and airports.

The Department of Highways and Public Works will be providing \$40.895 million in this budget for highway upgrades, reconstruction, resurfacing and erosion control.

Our government will be spending \$15.25 million this year as part of a three-year program to upgrade the Robert Campbell Highway which will open up this highway corridor for resource exploration, development and tourism potential.

A further \$775,000 is being provided for resurfacing the Robert Campbell Highway in preparation for the Yukon Zinc bulk ore haul.

Funding for the Shakwak Project this year totals \$10 million.

The Pelly River Bridge on the Klondike Highway will be receiving a \$2.5 million paint job while a further \$2.6 million will be spent to replace the Nordenskiold Bridge this year.

Two major bridge rehabilitation projects on the Alaska Highway at Albert Creek and Deadman Creek will cost \$2.4 million while several smaller bridge rehabilitation projects will require a \$1.095 million investment.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to maintaining the safety and integrity of Yukon's airport infrastructure.

Accordingly, we will be investing \$4.8 million for airport infrastructure, including improvements at Whitehorse, Dawson City, Faro, Mayo, Silver City, Burwash, and Old Crow.

With Yukon's ever growing population and burgeoning economy, land and lot development is critical.

In 2010-2011, our government will be allocating \$15.1 million for land development projects in Dawson, Carmacks, Destruction Bay, Haines Junction, Mayo, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.

Construction of the Whistle Bend development is beginning and lot supply is anticipated in fall 2012.

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE

Mr. Speaker, just as the land claims settlements empowered Yukon First Nations, the Devolution Transfer Agreement that our government implemented on April 1, 2003 made Yukoners masters in their own house.

Devolution gave the Yukon government control and management over Yukon land and resources.

With control and management, also came the responsibility and obligation to manage Yukon resources in the best interest of all Yukoners and this presents challenges to government.

Mr. Speaker, that is why our election platform commits our government to protecting and preserving Yukon's environment and wildlife while researching, mitigating and adapting to climate change as one of the four major pillars of our vision for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke of challenges.

One of the largest environmental challenges facing Yukoners is the remediation of the Faro Mine that is slated to last hundreds of years.

While the financial responsibility for this remediation rests with Ottawa, the Government of Yukon is responsible for carrying out the remediation work.

Our government's management of the care and maintenance of the Faro Mine Complex is proceeding with extensive site work by Denison Environmental Services planned for the summer of 2010.

The site work totaling \$33.923 million will reduce environmental risk and protect human health and safety while providing economic opportunities for First Nations.

Mr. Speaker, our government is working in partnership with the Ross River Dena Council and the mining industry to develop a resource plan for the traditional use area of the Ross River Dena and enhance community capacity through an outdoor education program of environmental management and cultural awareness.

The Northern Strategy is providing \$100,000 in 2010-2011 to implement this 3 year, \$300,000 program.

The Yukon Placer Secretariat is working with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government in another 3 year, \$350,000 Northern Strategy Program to increase the ability of individual First Nation governments to participate in the Fish Habitat Management System for Yukon Placer Mining.

Mr. Speaker, work is also underway to expand Yukon's Forestry Research Infrastructure. In recent years, heightened interest in forest industry expansion has coincided with a growing awareness of climate change impacts on Yukon forest ecosystems.

Changes in the climate have triggered significant ecological responses in Yukon forests, including a large-scale spruce bark beetle outbreak that has had a significant affect on many Yukon communities.

The Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund is providing \$1.052 million to expand Yukon's Forestry Research Infrastructure that includes the upgrading and renovation of greenhouses built in 1989, the development of a research laboratory at the Forest Management Branch's compound, and the research centre at the Gunnar Nilsson Mickey Lammers Research Forest.

At the same time, the Northern Strategy is funding a spruce beetle impact mitigation project in the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' traditional territory.

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' fuel abatement project will reduce the threat of large wildfires and supports the development of capacity for forest-based enterprises.

Funding of \$115,000 in 2010-2011 is being provided to implement this 3 year project that will have a total cost of \$350,000.

Mr. Speaker, our government will also provide \$1 million for the FireSmart program that helps reduce the threat of wildfire in and near Yukon communities and to strengthen local economies by creating winter employment opportunities.

The Cold Climate Innovation Centre, in conjunction with the Yukon Cold Climate Research Centre of Excellence, is another important research facility that our government is promoting through the contribution of \$844,000 in 2010-2011.

Mr. Speaker, another important election platform commitment was to ensure Yukoners have access to safe drinking water.

There are a number of initiatives in this budget to meet that commitment, namely:

- \$1.133 million under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) to support improvements to the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation water supply and allow for more households in the community to switch to a more reliable potable water source;

- \$1.45 million to complete upgrades to the surface water treatment system in Carcross in order to meet newly revised Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water quality;
- \$3.41 million for arsenic treatment upgrades to meet the new guidelines for the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, the Carcross Tagish First Nation, Haines Junction and Teslin; and
- \$1.1 million to treat the Ross River water supply for arsenic and manganese.

Similarly, our government is working with Canada and the communities to address waste water treatment to meet regulatory requirements and needs of the communities.

Projects include:

- \$1.521 million to complete the installation of new mechanical waste water treatment in Carmacks;
- \$150,000 for investigation of sewage treatment options in Old Crow; and
- \$16.8 million for the new secondary wastewater treatment facility in Dawson City that will include the construction of a district biomass heating system.

ACHIEVING A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

Mr. Speaker, most of our government's major initiatives since taking office in 2002 relate to improving Yukoners quality of life.

With this budget we are continuing that trend.

Education, of course, plays a key role in this regard and I already referred to the "New Horizons" Strategic Plan as one of our government's major reform initiatives.

The replacement of the F.H. Collins Secondary School is high on our government's agenda.

This budget includes \$2.7 million for the design of the new F.H. Collins Secondary School.

We continue to focus on literacy.

This budget allocates \$126,000 to the Four Winds Project that promotes a culturally inclusive family literacy centre that helps to meet family, community, and workplace literacy needs across Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, our government is supporting Yukon College with funding for research over and above the Yukon Climate Change Research Centre of Excellence.

A \$950,000 contribution will enable Yukon College to develop a new research and commercialization facility.

Further, the Government of Yukon, in partnership with Industry Canada, is providing funding for two new community campuses.

The first involves a \$1.4 million contribution over two years commencing in 2009-2010 to construct a new campus in Pelly Crossing that will be attached to the present school.

The second involves providing \$2.6 million over two years commencing in 2009-2010 to Yukon College to construct a two-floor addition to the existing School of Visual Arts in Dawson City.

Mr. Speaker, our government is a strong supporter of non-government organizations serving Yukon youth.

Three such organizations-Bringing Youth Towards Equality, Youth of Today Society, and the Boys and Girls Club of Whitehorse-will receive an additional \$110,000 each in annual funding to support programming costs.

Further, our government is signing a three-year agreement with each NGO mentioned above for 2010-2011 through to 2012-2013.

A total of \$924,000 has been allocated over the next three years to implement the Victims of Crime Strategy with \$312,000 being provided in the first year.

Under the Victims of Crime Strategy, \$185,207 will fund year one of a three-year, social marketing and public education campaign focusing on violence against women.

Moreover, the Northern Strategy will provide \$215,420 to conduct a three-year project implementing the recommendations of the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summit.

The prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women initiative has doubled to \$200,000 annually for programs and events designed and developed by Aboriginal women for their communities and, the Women's Equality Fund has been enhanced to provide \$300,000 for each of the next 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, one of our government's largest projects is the construction of the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre that is currently on time and on budget.

This project is the cornerstone of an overall redevelopment of the correctional system that will change the way we do corrections in the territory and provide a new regulatory model for operations.

The budget allocation this year for the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre is \$28 million.

Mr. Speaker, the Yukon Housing Corporation also plays a key role in improving the quality of life for Yukoners especially in relation to the provision of social and seniors housing.

There are a considerable number of housing projects currently underway. Approximately \$50 million in new building construction projects have been initiated and will continue in 2010 - 2011 with a budget of \$36 million to complete projects started in 2009 - 2010.

Social housing projects include:

- \$7 million for the replacement of Korbo Apartments in Dawson City;
- \$3.3 million for the construction of the 30-unit Whitehorse Affordable Family Housing Complex for single parent families;
- \$2.682 million to replace obsolete double wide trailers in Carmacks, Ross River and Dawson City with new units built to Super Green energy standards;
- \$2.2 million for six housing units in Whitehorse that will provide additional multi-bedroom units for the social housing portfolio; and
- \$3.7 million for the upgrade of existing social housing units Yukon wide.

Seniors housing projects include:

- \$1.64 million to build an Abbeyfield Seniors housing building that promotes independent and communal living including meal services;
- \$11.25 million to replace #207 Alexander Street seniors housing complex in Whitehorse with a new Super Green energy efficient building; and
- \$3.25 million for seniors buildings in Faro, Teslin and Watson Lake.

Mr. Speaker, our government is allocating \$527,000 to enhance and support the Yukon Home Care Program to provide services to all Yukoners, but particularly for those who require home care outside of Whitehorse.

A new Children's Receiving Home for boys is being constructed by the Department of Health and Social Services on the site of the former home in Whitehorse.

The 6 bed facility is on target for completion in June with a budget allocation of \$122,000.

Mr. Speaker, our government is utilizing modern technology to improve health care services for Yukoners.

Examples include a \$2.019 million investment for teleradiology to provide computer radiology in 13 Community Health Centres and \$120,000 allocation to expand Telehealth video conferencing equipment capabilities into First Nations offices.

Alcohol and drug abuse is a perennial Yukon problem.

Our government, through the Alcohol and Drug Information Referral Service (ADIRS), is providing \$38,000 to establish a 24 hour crisis-information line that offers the public access to addiction support workers at all times.

We are also investing \$447,228 for the Yukon Addiction Service Systems Standards and Evaluation Project that will enhance, create and document systems that standardize Detox and Treatment practices.

In addition, we are allocating \$90,200 to provide a Alcohol and Drug Services addictions counselor for the Community Wellness Court.

Mr. Speaker, municipalities make a major contribution to providing a better quality of life for Yukoners and our government recognizes this fact.

We are currently in year three of a five year commitment to increase the Comprehensive Municipal Grants (CMG) and Community Operations budget for provision of municipal type services in unincorporated communities.

The increase in this budget is \$808,000 for the grants to municipalities and \$121,000 for unincorporated communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Community Services has a role to play in delivering medical care as well. Community Services is requesting \$357,000 for the planning and design of a new Integrated Emergency Response Facility in Whitehorse that will house the new primary Emergency Medical Service (EMS) ambulance station and ensure quick EMS response times to serve a growing community that includes new neighbourhoods along Hamilton Boulevard and the Alaska Highway.

The secondary EMS ambulance station will remain at the Whitehorse General Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, sport and recreation are essential in improving the quality of life in Yukon.

Yukon is indeed fortunate in having sport and recreational facilities in every community.

We are even more fortunate in having the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RinC) program that is providing \$823,000 to maintain, improve and upgrade recreation facilities in seven Yukon communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Decade of Sport and Culture initiative that was planned by our government back in 2003, together with its ancillary programs of Culture Quest, the Best Ever Program and Yukon Sport for Life, have been tremendously successful and have produced a truly wonderful growing legacy that now includes the 2007 Canada Winter Games, the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics and beyond.

This legacy is going to continue with Yukon participation in the 2011 North American Indigenous Games, the 2011 Halifax Canada Winter Games and the 2012 Arctic Winter Games that will be hosted by the City of Whitehorse.

The Department of Community Services is committing \$150,000 over two years for the 2011 North American Indigenous Games, \$120,000 for the 2011 Halifax Canada Winter Games and \$1 million for the 2012 Whitehorse Arctic Winter Games respectively.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, Yukoners have much to be proud of.

We are an independent, energetic people rich in history and cultural diversity.

We live in a beautiful, bountiful land that is blessed with an abundance of natural resources.

We have a quality of life in Yukon second to none in Canada if not the world.

Despite the difficult global economic times, we have a growing, diversified private sector economy that year by year is supplanting the “old” economy dependent upon federal transfer payments and government spending.

Clearly, the Yukon is on the pathway to prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, the 2010-2011 Budget is not just a budget for today – it is a budget for tomorrow.

It is a budget that provides certainty and direction for the next three years.

We are proud of this budget and all the good work it will do.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the 2010-2011 Budget to all Members of this House.