

FOR RELEASE
February 29, 2012

#12-029

Ross River recreation centre funding announced

WHITEHORSE—Construction will begin this summer on a new \$7 million Ross River recreation centre, subject to legislative approval, Community Services Minister Elaine Taylor announced today.

"We are committed to building a new recreation centre for the community," Taylor said. "It will be an important gathering place for youth and community members that will promote active and healthy living."

The new single storey facility, to be constructed on the site of the old arena, will be energy efficient and accessible. It will include a hockey arena and multi-purpose areas suitable for recreation and sport programming to best meet the community's needs.

"Collaboration on this project was excellent and I am pleased that we will have the opportunity to help plan for a much-needed facility that will meet our needs in Ross River," president of the Ross River Recreation Society, Fran Etzel said. "We appreciate that an outdoor rink was built for this winter and the community is really looking forward to construction of the new recreation centre."

Ever since Ross River lost its recreation centre to a fire in March 2011, Yukon government has worked closely with members of the community to build a temporary ice rink and plan for a replacement facility.

As an interim step, in December the Yukon government constructed an outdoor rink and the [Yukon Mine Legacy Foundation](#) coordinated in-kind donations of materials and labour and provided \$10,000 to build and install a warm-up hut.

"The funds for the warm-up hut were raised through a silent auction to benefit the Foundation held at a Yukon Gold Mining Alliance Open House in the fall," said Foundation Chair Janet Lee-Sheriff. "The construction and mining community were generous in their donations and it was really great to help out as the wider community came together to ensure Ross River had a functional ice rink this winter. This support is also an excellent example of the benefits that mining companies and our suppliers collectively bring to Yukon."

Design and construction of the new recreation centre is expected to move forward this spring, following further discussions with the community. Completion is expected in 2013.

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See photograph attached.

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Community Services Minister Elaine Taylor, Justice Minister Mike Nixon, and Pelly Nisutlin MLA Stacey Hassard join Ross River Dena Council Deputy Chief Jenny Caesar, Building Advisory Committee member Mary Ann Etzel and Ross River School students in Ross River for the funding announcement of a new recreation centre.