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WHITEHORSE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT POISED FOR GROWTH

WHITEHORSE – Highways and Public Works Minister Archie Lang and Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor are pleased to announce major upgrades to the Whitehorse International Airport that will allow for increased economic growth as well as national and international visitation.

Funding in the amount of \$6.5 million in 2008/09, with a further \$7.4 million allocated in 2009/10 will go toward the expansion project scheduled for completion in November 2009, subject to legislative approval.

In addition, \$1.8 million has been approved for the final phase of the airport's parking lot improvements.

“The Whitehorse International Airport and parking lot expansion is but one example of the Yukon government's commitment to grow the Yukon economy,” Lang said. “By investing in this important infrastructure, we contribute to both tourism and business activities that are vital to Yukon's economic well-being. The 2500 square metre expansion includes additional space for security clearance of passengers and a new 230 passenger hold room that will serve as an in-transit lounge for international flights.”

The upgraded facility will be available for 2010 and will include a new and larger carousel and an oversized freight and passenger elevator.

“The improvements will allow the Whitehorse International Airport to provide better service to national and international traffic and make Yukon an even more attractive destination,” Taylor said.

Airport parking improvements have resulted in 237 additional stalls for public parking, bringing the total to over 400. Automated parking controls will be completed later this year, as will the relocation of the DC 3 and the remaining work on the internal circulation roads. These upgrades will allow safe and more efficient access to the airport with smoother traffic flow and better long term parking.

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