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**LOCATION IDENTIFIED FOR WHITEHORSE AFFORDABLE FAMILY HOUSING PROJECT**

WHITEHORSE – Minister responsible for the Women’s Directorate Marian C. Horne announced today that a block of Yukon government land on Nisutlin Drive in Riverdale will be the site for a 30-unit affordable family housing project in Whitehorse.

“This affordable housing initiative will address the largest gap in housing that currently exists – secure affordable housing for lone parent families,” Horne said. “This location was chosen after careful consideration and consultation with women’s groups, transition home employees and social housing clients.”

The Yukon Status of Women supports and applauds the initiative and the location said Status coordinator Charlotte Hrenchuk. “I think the choice will serve women and families well,” she said.

Riverdale South MLA Glenn Hart said he too supports the location.

“I’m pleased to see that Riverdale has been selected as the location for this affordable housing initiative,” Hart said. “It is close to the amenities and services that residents of this facility will need.”

Riverdale North MLA Ted Staffen added: “The location is in close proximity to schools, daycares, public transit and shopping.”

Next steps include completing a survey of the site, registering the plans with Land Titles and submitting the project for assessment by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. There will also be further consultation on design concepts.

Design features being considered include energy efficiency (to Green Home Standards) barrier-free design to accommodate people with mobility limitations, child care, meeting areas, indoor and outdoor activity areas for children and special security and durability features.

Funding for this project is being provided by the Northern Housing Trust, a federal housing initiative designed to help provide affordable housing in the North, with \$960,000 identified in this year’s Yukon government budget for planning and design.

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A map showing the housing project’s location follows.

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