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**Whitehorse Airport Renamed to the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport**

WHITEHORSE - In dedication to the Honourable Erik Nielsen, the Whitehorse International Airport has been renamed the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.

Mr. Nielsen was Yukon's longest standing Member of Parliament. He served as the Minister of Public Works (1979-1980); the leader of the Opposition (1983); Deputy Prime Minister (1984-1986) and President of the Queens Privy Council of Canada (1984-1985). He reached the highest ranking federal political position ever attained by a Yukoner.

"His positive impact and many contributions to the North will not be forgotten and today we honour Mr. Nielsen and his family with this dedication," Premier Dennis Fentie said.

"The renaming of the Whitehorse International Airport is a recognition that will symbolize Mr. Nielsen's contribution to the North and to Canada," Highways and Public Works Minister Archie Lang added.

In addition to his many contributions to the North, Mr. Nielsen was responsible for the initial construction of a new airport facility in Whitehorse, which at the time was a World War II hanger.

He was also instrumental in implementing the northern living tax exemption, and fought for First Nation's right to vote federally, which became a reality in 1960.

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