

FOR RELEASE #09-001
January 9, 2009

Crown Corporations Split From Community Services

WHITEHORSE –Yukon Housing Corporation, the Yukon Liquor Corporation and Lotteries Yukon are being re-established as a unit separate from the Department of Community Services, Premier Dennis Fentie announced today.

“Community Services is a large department in the government and it makes sense for the Crown Corporations to be set apart,” said Fentie. “This new unit will be established formally through amendments to the *Housing Corporation Act* and the *Liquor Act* when the legislature reconvenes.”

As part of the change, Jeff O’Farrell will assume deputy minister responsibilities for the Department of Community Services effective January 26 and Ron MacMillan, QC will be delegated the authority for the Crown Corporations until the legislation is amended at which point he will assume full managing responsibility.

“We are making a practical business decision to enhance program service delivery through the Crown Corporations,” Fentie said. “Our expectation is that this new approach will provide an opportunity to focus more clearly on the mandates of the corporations so that the government is better positioned to make timely decisions relative to programs and services for Yukoners.”

O’Farrell is currently the assistant deputy minister, Sustainable Resources in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. MacMillan has been serving as acting deputy minister in Community Services for the past eight months.

O’Farrell is a graduate of the Yukon Government Leadership Forum (YGLF), the government’s training program for future leaders. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Alaska Southeast. He has served in the Yukon public service for eight years and previously worked for the City of Whitehorse.

MacMillan has a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of New Brunswick and practised law in that province from 1975 to 1999 at which time he joined the Government of Prince Edward Island as the deputy attorney general and deputy minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour. He was seconded to the Yukon government in January 2008 as the assistant deputy minister in the Department of Community Services prior to being appointed acting deputy minister.

-30-

Contact:

Patricia N. Daws
Public Service Commissioner
867-667-5252
patricia.daws@gov.yk.ca