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**Volunteer Fire Departments Recognized and Funding Increased**

WHITEHORSE – Community Services Minister Archie Lang today announced an increase in funding for Volunteer Fire Departments and extended Yukon’s appreciation for local fire departments working with Wildland Fire Management in controlling urban interface wildland fires.

In a presentation today, the minister recognized the collaboration among volunteer firefighters and Yukon Wildland Fire Management by presenting a certificate of appreciation to Jim Regimbal, president of the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs.

“I thank Yukon Volunteer Fire Departments, Yukon’s municipal fire departments and Wildland Fire Management on their outstanding success in developing an integrated response that allows responders to quickly contain and extinguish a number of potentially serious wildland fires near our communities,” Lang said. “Together with all emergency responders across Yukon, volunteer firefighters work hard to protect our communities and I commend them and all emergency responders for their dedicated service.”

Funding for Volunteer Fire Departments is increasing by more than \$58,000 to nearly \$150,000 per year. The commitment recognizes the valuable contribution of Volunteer Fire Departments by providing additional incentive to recruit and retain volunteers, and provide additional remuneration for supervisory and administrative functions.

“This funding commitment is in line with the support that this government has provided to Emergency Medical Services and the overall support that we provide to emergency responders,” Lang added. “I am pleased that we are able to recognize their valuable contribution in this way.”

The fire chief honorarium increases from \$200 per month to an amount between \$300 and \$600 per month depending on the size and activity of the volunteer fire department. Emergency call-out honoraria for volunteer firefighters will also increase from \$20 per hour to \$22 per hour.

The Government of Yukon Fire Marshal Office currently supports 15 active Volunteer Fire Departments in unincorporated communities.

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