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**Funding to Determine Feasibility of Daycare for Watson Lake**

WHITEHORSE – Dennis Fentie, MLA for Watson Lake, today announced a \$19,294 Community Development Fund grant to the Watson Lake Daycare Society.

“This government is committed to quality child care for all Yukon children,” Fentie said. “We understand that rural Yukon communities sometimes face challenges in providing quality service at the local level. The Watson Lake Daycare Society has struggled in the past and I am pleased we can help the society realistically examine what the future of child care looks like in Watson Lake.”

The Community Development Fund grant will assist the society in meeting with, and learning from, other successful rural child care programs. It will also help determine the feasibility of different options for operating a child care centre in Watson Lake.

The Watson Lake Daycare closed last year when faced with a number of challenges, including the resignation of its executive director.

Previous reports funded by Child Care Services and the Community Development Fund provided the group with a good look at the needs and challenges faced by the society but did not detail options for success.

Fentie has asked the Department of Health and Social Services, Child Care Services unit to play an active role in assisting to manage the project. In addition, he has requested that the society involve the Department of Education, the Liard First Nation and other community partners in the work.

“We are committed to providing support and assistance to the society to ensure a positive result for the community of Watson Lake,” Fentie said.

Since 2007, the Yukon government has increased funding to child care significantly. By 2012, the annual contribution for child care is expected to reach \$10.3 million.

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