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**Plans Unveiled for New Library**

WHITEHORSE – Preliminary designs for the new Whitehorse Public Library to be located in the Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) Cultural Centre were on display at an open house today.

“I am excited to share our plans for the future of the Whitehorse Public Library,” Community Services Minister Archie Lang said. “This week marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of publicly-operated libraries in Yukon. As we look to the future, we appreciate how far we’ve come, how much Yukon libraries have grown, and the excellent services our libraries offer.”

The KDFN Cultural Centre will be completed by 2012 and the library will occupy the south end of the building. A grand stairway and elevator will provide access to the library’s main public area, to be located on the second floor. The main floor will contain behind-the-scenes library services and meeting rooms.

The library will feature a larger computer work area, more flexibility for displaying the library’s collection of books and materials, a youth section, an expanded children’s section with space for storytelling and activities, and more space for quiet study and casual reading. It will have natural light and panoramic views of the Yukon River.

“Locating the Whitehorse Public Library in the KDFN Cultural Centre is a natural fit,” Lang added. “People can look forward to a larger, brighter library in a scenic location. The building will enhance tourism and cultural opportunities on the Whitehorse waterfront. It will ensure that the waterfront becomes a main attraction and a natural gathering place.”

“The move to the KDFN Cultural Centre will offer opportunities for joint programming with KDFN,” Whitehorse Public Library board chair Hans Ott said. “This will be a positive move for all Yukon Public Libraries. We will continue to focus on providing welcoming environments and safe, comfortable community meeting places, as well as access to new and traditional resources, skilled help with research and projects, and programs of interest to Yukoners of all ages.”

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Contact:

Emily Younker  
Cabinet Communications  
867-633-7961  
[emily.younker@gov.yk.ca](mailto:emily.younker@gov.yk.ca)

Brenda Wale  
Communications, Community Services  
867-667-5941  
[brenda.wale@gov.yk.ca](mailto:brenda.wale@gov.yk.ca)