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**Yukon at the Forefront of E-health Expansion**

WHITEHORSE – Yukon is a leader in the use of electronic health technology and its citizens are the beneficiaries. That’s the message delivered by Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart to participants in a two-day e-health forum in Calgary on Monday.

“E-health in Yukon is gaining prominence because it provides a mechanism to make our health care system more accessible and responsive to citizens”, Hart said in his keynote address to leaders in e-health from across the country.

E-health began in Yukon in 2005 when the Connect Yukon project brought high-speed internet access to 95 per cent of Yukoners. Since then, telehealth, videoconferencing, telehomecare and teleradiology have earned their place in Yukon’s health care system.

“E-health gives people in rural communities the ability to come virtually face to face with a doctor or other health care provider hundreds of miles away,” Hart said.

The minister spoke to Yukon’s partnership with British Columbia for intergovernmental collaboration on e-health services.

“The long term vision is a level of e-health integration between the two jurisdictions that achieves the desired objectives of both of us, while being practical, sustainable and affordable for both jurisdictions,” Hart said. “The Public Health Information project will see Yukon and B.C. implement *Panorama*, the pan-Canadian public health information system solution for the management of communicable disease and immunization.”

Yukon’s next step is the development of new health information legislation to guide the policy decisions regarding access to – and the privacy protection of – personal health information.

To read Minister Hart’s keynote address, visit here: [hss.gov.yk.ca/downloads/e-health\\_keynote\\_address\\_26102009.pdf](http://hss.gov.yk.ca/downloads/e-health_keynote_address_26102009.pdf)

To read about the conference, visit here: [www.insightinfo.com/index.cfm/ci\\_id/26353/la\\_id/1/document/1/re\\_id/0](http://www.insightinfo.com/index.cfm/ci_id/26353/la_id/1/document/1/re_id/0)

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