



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **YESAB Launches New Website**

The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) is inviting Yukoners to visit its new website at [www.yesab.ca](http://www.yesab.ca).

The website, which was launched today, will provide Yukoners with the latest information about Board activities and plans.

“The Board is very pleased to launch this new site,” said YESAB Chair Dale Eftoda. “We know that many Yukoners are looking for information about how the new assessment process will work and about other aspects of the Board’s operations as well. The new website provides the most up-to-date information we have available on a variety of topics related to the Board. We hope Yukoners will find it useful.”

The site will be updated regularly as new information becomes available. It includes sections on the assessment process, recent activities of Board members and YESAB staff, employment opportunities and the rules development process.

YESAB is currently developing rules which set out how the assessment process will work. A draft of the rules for a Designated Office evaluation, which is one type of assessment, is currently posted at the website.

“We would encourage Yukoners to take a look at the rules in their current draft form, and to provide us with any comments,” added Eftoda. “We have already shared drafts of the rules with interested stakeholders. We are hoping our website will help to bring the draft rules to an even wider audience.”

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The new website also has information about the six Designated Offices which YESAB is setting up in accordance with the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA). The Designated Offices will be located in six Yukon communities. All are expected to be open in the late summer, just before assessments under YESAA are projected to begin.

Development and design of the website was done by the Whitehorse-based communications firm Outcrop Yukon. The majority of the photographs were provided by Whitehorse photographer Cathie Archbould.

The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board was formed in June 2004. The Board was created under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*, which establishes a process to assess effects of projects and other activities in the Yukon or that might affect the Yukon. This is a requirement of Chapter 12 of the Umbrella Final Agreement and Yukon First Nations' Final Agreements. YESAB is an independent arms-length board which will administer an assessment process that will be carried out by six regional Designated Offices, the Executive Committee of the Board and Panels of the Board.

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