



## **For Immediate Release!**

### **The Yukon Chamber of Commerce Comments on the New Federal Budget**

The Yukon Chamber of Commerce (YCC) is generally pleased with the Federal Government's announced direction and priorities as outline in their Economic Action Plan: 2014 presented Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. We view as good news that this will return Canada to a balanced budget in 2015 and, indeed, achieve a surplus.

We share the view of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce that Budget initiatives on infrastructure, skills and remote communities will boost Canada's competitiveness as a whole; and particularly note support of actions to match young workers with the skills needs of business.

However we have concerns that the federal government is not heeding the concerns of multiple provinces and territories, related to the Canada Job Grant program. The Harper government appears determined to implement this in just six weeks, with or without co-operation from the provinces and territories. We believe that the program will negatively impact both Yukon small businesses and existing territorial programs for youth, aboriginals and disabled citizens.

Mr. Richard Thompson, Interim Chair of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce commented, "areas that deliver particularly good news for Yukon businesses include: the Canada-First Research Excellence Fund, which could be a source of funding for Yukon College programs and the Yukon Research Centre; the public infrastructure investment initiatives; and telecommunications initiatives that include investment in rural and Northern broadband and regulation of cellular roaming charges."

Peter Turner, President of the YCC added, "announced efforts to reduce the price gap between goods sold in Canada and the US may contribute to more Yukoners shopping at home rather than making a run to Alaska, but we'll have to see. And though there was mention of investment in Parks Canada, it seemed to focus on infrastructure like park roads, which will be more impactful on southern parks than those in the Yukon."

Incorporated in 1985, the Yukon Chamber of Commerce is the collective voice of Yukon's Business Community, working to create a climate conducive to a strong private-sector economy by providing leadership and representation on issues and projects affecting business. The Chamber represents the four Community Chambers of Dawson City, Silver Trail, Watson Lake and Whitehorse, as well as over 700 Yukon businesses, through either direct or Community Chamber membership.

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