



NEWS RELEASE

**City of Yellowknife
January 10, 2011**

City of Yellowknife Invites Residents to Learn More About Con Mine Community Energy Project at January Information Sessions in Preparation for Public Vote in March

The City of Yellowknife is hosting two public information sessions this month to help residents learn more about the Con Mine Community Energy System project. These information sessions offer residents an opportunity to learn more about the project, meet the project team, hear about community energy systems in other communities, and discuss the project in more detail.

Con Mine Community Energy System Information Sessions are being held on:

- Monday January 17, 7pm Northern United Place, 5403-50 Avenue (Franklin Ave)
- Wednesday January 19, 7pm École St Joseph, 489 Range Lake Rd.

Both events are part of the City of Yellowknife's efforts to prepare residents for a public referendum vote planned for March 14, 2011. This vote will ask if residents approve of the City of Yellowknife borrowing up to \$49 million on behalf of the community energy utility. The money will be repaid by the utility from revenue generated by energy sales. If a private investor is selected, it will reduce the City's borrowing requirement.

"Understanding how this project is funded—not by taxpayer dollars—is a key element to review before the public vote in March," said Mayor Gordon Van Tighem. "We want Yellowknifers to have full information about the project and to understand how it is proposed to be financed from revenue earned by heat sales."

Both evening information sessions will follow the same format. Each session will start with a brief presentation about the project, followed by opportunities for people to discuss the project and visit information stations that feature more detailed information about specific elements such as funding, sustainability, and how heat energy will be extracted from the mine.

There will also be guest speakers and information panels featuring information on other communities that have set up community energy systems.

"We encourage people to come to these sessions to find out how the project will work, to understand the funding model, and to see how other communities are doing this," said Deputy Mayor Mark Heyck. "We've received many questions on these topics and see there is a need to share more information and discuss some of the specific project elements in more detail as a community."

Detailed information about the March 14 referendum vote (such as voting locations and proxy voting) will be announced and posted on the City of Yellowknife website once they are confirmed.

Background on the Con Mine Community Energy Project

The City of Yellowknife is evaluating the potential for a community energy system to provide heating services to buildings in the downtown core using heat from Con Mine. The basic concept involves recovering heat from the abandoned mine approximately one kilometre outside of downtown Yellowknife to heat buildings via distributed piping. Ownership of the system will be determined after the City receives proposals from private sector investors, however, in any scenario the system would be revenue-financed (rather than tax financed) through user fees over time. Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has made available grant funding between \$10 and \$20 million on this \$60 million project.

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Contact:

Mark Henry

Energy Coordinator, City of Yellowknife

Telephone: (867) 920-5697

E-mail: ConMineProject@Yellowknife.ca