

# Yukon Women's Mini-Bus Society

Location: Whitehorse

Started: 1975

Contact: Joyce Hayden

The Yukon Women's Mini-Bus Society started as a Transit Committee of the Yukon Status of Women Council with the goal of getting a public transit system set up in Whitehorse. To demonstrate the need and viability of a transit system, the society started an 18 month pilot project, with four mini-buses, in 1976. Its success convinced the City of Whitehorse to establish the Whitehorse Transit Commission which continues to run the bus system in the city today.

**Community benefits:** The mini-bus system helped break down the isolation of many people in the community who had no car or whose car was not available to them during the day. It also created a sense of community pride in what was achieved. A number of part-time jobs were created which fit the schedules of the many women employees. It was an early, positive example of job-sharing.



**Lessons learned:** There was a tremendous amount of resistance to creating a transit system from all three levels of government. The job took a lot of perseverance, commitment and patience to help deal with the prejudice of many people who didn't believe the women knew what they were doing. Fact finding trips to other towns in



Canada helped increase knowledge of solutions. A consultant, hired by the federal Ministry of Transport, helped strengthen the technical information in the project proposal.

**Future of the project:** The transit system in Whitehorse continues to operate. Having achieved its goals, the Yukon Women's Mini-Bus Society disbanded long ago.