

FOR RELEASE  
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**WOMEN'S EQUALITY FUND RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED**

WHITEHORSE – Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate Elaine Taylor today announced the names of seven organizations that will receive over \$520,000 over three years to advance women's equality in Yukon.

"We established the Women's Equality Fund in response to a need identified by a number of women's organizations for more sustained funding," Taylor said. "As we heard at the National Aboriginal Women's Summit recently, an investment in support of women is an investment in a healthier community."

The three-year funding program is intended to support direct services and programs for women; advance women's equality through research and policy development; support education and social action on women's equality issues; and support the development and capacity of women's organizations to effectively enhance women's equality.

"Women still face many barriers, such as violence, poverty and discrimination," Taylor said. "We are committed to helping women achieve social, economic and political equality in the North."

The recipients are: Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle; Les EssentiELLES; Yukon Women in Trades and Technology; Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre; Yukon Status of Women Council; and Yukon Human Rights Commission.

Organizations that fit the fund's criteria could apply for up to \$35,000 per year, starting in 2007, renewable in 2008 and 2009. The deadline for applications was May 28.

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Attachment: Recipients of 2007-09 Women's Equality Fund

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## **ATTACHMENT: Recipients Of 2007-09 Women's Equality Fund**

**Liard Aboriginal Women's Society** will receive \$104,000 over three years to increase public awareness and inform public debate on women's key concerns regarding governance, and to achieve an informed consensus among Kaska women regarding the Kaska National constitution.

**Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle** will receive \$104,000 over three years to set up an office; hire an Executive Director to build capacity for an Aboriginal Women's Centre in Yukon; develop and design culturally appropriate and relevant programs and services; and provide programs and services and advocacy services to its clients.

**Les EssentiELLES** will receive \$95,250 over three years to develop awareness campaigns in French on different themes affecting equality of Yukon women: sexual, verbal and physical violence against young, adult and senior women; economic parity; and the rights of women.

**Yukon Women in Trades and Technology** will receive \$101,550 to increase the skill sets of Yukon women, making them more self-sufficient and generating their interest in further pursuing trades; increase the skill sets of Yukon tradeswomen; and increase the pool of female instructors available in Yukon.

**Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre** will receive \$36,600 to increase accessibility of the Women's Centre; increase the number of positive, strength-building activities at the Centre; raise awareness of issues that limit or reduce the well-being of women; and increase the number of women leaders in Yukon.

**Yukon Status of Women Council** will receive \$60,000 over three years to build on the work of the Northern Women and Homelessness project by following up on recommendations made in the report "A Little Kindness Would Go a Long Way" and promoting the research results to positively affect housing options for women in Yukon.

**Yukon Human Rights Commission** will receive \$20,000 over one year for research, outreach and consultation with Yukon women and girls to identify gaps in the current legislation in its protection for the human rights of women and girls; and identify barriers to the use of the Commission's services by Yukon women and girls.

**TOTAL OVER THREE YEARS: \$521,400**