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**DAWSON CITY ARTS SOCIETY RECEIVES INCREASED FUNDING**

WHITEHORSE – Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor presented a cheque to the Dawson City Arts Society (DCAS) in the amount of \$150,000 to assist with operations and annual programming delivered through the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture (KIAC).

“The Dawson City Arts Society is a catalyst for arts education and public engagement in the arts that benefit the Klondike region and the entire Yukon,” Taylor said. “The Yukon government is pleased to be able to assist the society to meet its increased operating costs, and support projects such as annual film and visual arts festivals, Odd Gallery programming, youth art education programs, and special events scheduled throughout the year.”

The Klondike Institute of Art and Culture, which is the operating arm of DCAS, offers a broad range of community and continuing education, and professional development programs from the Odd Fellows Hall campus in Dawson City.

DCAS is also engaged in the KIAC School of Visual Arts which offers an accredited visual arts program that provides students with the first year of a Bachelor of Fine Arts or a Bachelor of Arts in Design.

“I am pleased that we were able to provide this additional core funding to support DCAS as they continue with their many initiatives in our community,” Klondike MLA Steve Nordick stated.

“Establishing consistent annual funding for our ongoing programs and operations is definitely welcome news for us,” DCAS Executive Director Gary Parker said. “This consolidated investment gives us the stability needed to sustain and grow as an important provider of arts programs for Yukoners. DCAS has accomplished a great deal in its first 10 years and has immense future potential. Our members, volunteers and many supporters are pleased to be recognized by government in such a substantial way.”

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