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**EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION RECOGNIZED BY YTA AND YUKON GOVERNMENT**

WHITEHORSE - The Department of Education and the Yukon Teachers' Association (YTA) held their annual Retirees, Lifetime Membership and Excellence in Education Awards Ceremony last Friday.

Excellence in Education Awards were presented to Patti Tetlich, from Chief Zzeh Gittlit School in Old Crow; Barbara Bergsma from Vanier Catholic Secondary School; Monique Coderre from Whitehorse Elementary School; Wil De Wit from Takhini Elementary School, and Leslie Thompson from Jack Hulland Elementary.

"Every day, Yukon teachers make a difference in the lives of students and their families," Education Minister Patrick Rouble said. "These awards are one way we show our appreciation. All the nominees have made outstanding contributions to their schools and to their communities."

"These teachers are outstanding representatives of the excellent work being done in all our schools," YTA President Jim Tredger said.

The Excellence in Education Award recognizes excellence in public school education. For each nomination, an extensive package was prepared, outlining the outstanding actions of the nominees and the effects of those actions on the students, their families and the community. Fourteen nominations were received and numerous letters of support were submitted from colleagues, administrators, parents, students and school council members for each of the nominees.

Also at this event, this year's retiring teachers were recognized and thanked and Lifetime Memberships for the YTA were given to recognized retired teachers who had served more than 15 years in Yukon schools.

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