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Funding for Violence Prevention Doubled

WHITEHORSE – The Minister responsible for the Women’s Directorate, Marian C. Horne announced an increase in the Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund from \$100,000 to \$200,000 annually, pending legislative approval.

“This government recognizes that there are disparities in rates of violence experienced between First Nations women and other women that must be met,” Horne said. “The programming supported through this fund has been created for Aboriginal women in an effort to reduce incidences of violence specifically towards them.”

Statistics Canada reports rates of violence towards women in the North exceeds the national average and rates of spousal violence and spousal homicide are higher for Aboriginal women than non-Aboriginal women. Aboriginal women experience spousal violence at a rate that is three times higher than for non-Aboriginal women.

Since 2004, the Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund has allocated \$100,000 yearly to projects designed and developed by Aboriginal women for their communities. The Women’s Directorate generates an annual spring call for proposals and has contributed approximately \$500,000 toward this fund.

“The Government of Yukon is meeting its commitment to reduce violence against Aboriginal women in Yukon by dedicating and now doubling annual funding to projects aimed at preventing violence against Aboriginal women,” Horne said. “The call for this year’s proposals is expected to take place in late April.”

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See backgrounder attached.

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Backgrounder

In 2008-09 the Yukon government committed funding for six community-based projects that are helping prevent violence against Aboriginal women:

Kluane First Nation Weaving Women's Strength	\$ 18,700
Kwanlin Dün First Nation Retreat on Wellness and Prevention of Violence Against Women	10,217
Margaret Thomson Centre Promoting Dignity, Safety and Respect for Aboriginal Women Through Community Talking Circles	20,000
Northern Tutchone Tribal Council Phase III: Women's Empowerment and Safety Program	20,000
Selkirk First Nation Phase II: Women's Empowerment and Safety Program	20,000
Skookum Jim Friendship Centre I Change Myself – I Change the World	10,000