

FOR RELEASE #09-076
March 23, 2009

Yukon College to be Given Degree Granting Status

WHITEHORSE – In order to provide Yukoners with more educational opportunities, the Government of Yukon is proposing changes to the *Yukon College Act*, which will empower the college to grant degrees.

This proposed legislation, tabled in the Legislative Assembly today, addresses several issues:

- empowering the college to grant degrees;
- continuing the appointment of a Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor to award degrees, diplomas and certificates to graduates, in keeping in line with degree granting institutions' practices;
- formally adding a Finance and Audit Committee to the Board of Governors, in keeping with current practices of other post-secondary institutions;
- formally establishing an Academic Council, which will enable the college to follow the proper protocols of degree granting institutions;
- formalizing the current Student Union, in order to facilitate the union's role in appointing nominees to the Board of Governors and the Academic Council; and,
- developing a tuition policy, that upon approval by the Minister, will establish tuition fees as set by the Yukon College.

"These changes promote academic excellence, sound governance and enable the college to move forward strategically," Education Minister Rouble said. "Post-secondary education is important to the well-being of a community. These changes enable Yukon College to be a more responsive and responsible education institution, and maintain the values and traditions of a community college."

"In keeping with the Yukon College Strategic Plan for 2008-2013, we're on track, building a vibrant and sustainable organization, working together with First Nations and all Yukon communities, while leading with our strengths in research, programs and service," Clarence Timmons, chair of the College Board, said. "We're building a community of learners through the development of a solid foundation for the introduction of more programming relevant to Yukoners."

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