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**Oral Health Starts at Birth**

WHITEHORSE – To celebrate national Oral Health Month, Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart announced a new promotion of its Pre-School Dental Program.

As part of the Yukon Children’s Dental Program, the pre-school program focuses on newborn children to age five and provides community education services as well as diagnostic, preventative and restorative care to pre-schoolers. Each pre-schooler will receive a passport booklet personalized with a photo at each visit to the dental therapist. The booklet provides age-appropriate information and tips on how to keep children’s mouths and teeth healthy.

“Having healthy teeth and gums is an important part of leading a healthy life,” Hart said. “Ensuring children have proper dental care at an early age can help prevent future dental problems and helps encourage positive oral health habits that can last a lifetime.”

Clinics with dentists, dental therapists and educational consultants are available in Whitehorse and the communities.

The Yukon Children’s Dental Program also provides school-based diagnostic, preventative and restorative services for children. Communities with a resident dentist provide these services to and youth, from Kindergarten to Grade 8; and in communities without a resident dentist, services are available from Kindergarten up to Grade 12.

All services provided by the Yukon Children’s Dental Program are supplied at no cost to the parent or guardian. The costs are covered by the Government of Yukon Department of Health and Social Services.

For more information on the Yukon Children’s Dental Program call 867-667-8360, toll-free in communities at 1-800-661-0408 extension 8360 or visit [www.hss.gov.yk.ca/dentalhealth](http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/dentalhealth).

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