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**Yukon Artists to Take Their Talents on the Road**

WHITEHORSE – The Touring Artist Fund will contribute \$44,378 in funding to 14 Yukon artists travelling to the Northwest Territories, Alberta, BC, the US and Jamaica, announced Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor.

“The Yukon government is delighted to support these talented individuals who will showcase their creativity and artistic expressions at national and international levels,” Taylor said. “Their travels will allow them to grow professionally within their artistic disciplines while sharing their northern spirit with others.”

Eight applicants to the March intake of the Yukon’s Touring Artist Fund will travel to the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik in July. Charlene Alexander, co-founder of the festival and recipient of the Governor General’s Meritorious Service Medal, is proud of the festival and its success over the past two decades.

“The opportunity for Yukon artists to travel outside the territory opens up avenues for them to meet new people, develop professional and personal relationships, and gain new skills and inspiration from their peers,” Alexander said. “Congratulations to all those travelling north this summer, and to the other recipients who have the opportunity to develop their own artistic pursuits.”

Yukon’s Touring Artist Fund assists professional artists and ensembles who create and produce original works to expand their touring opportunities to reach new audiences. The applicant-driven funding program is adjudicated four times a year by the Yukon Arts Advisory Council.

The Northern Lights Dance Fraise receives \$8,000 to travel to Jamaica this August to perform *Raven Steals the Sun* at the Dance and the Child International Conference. This leading forum brings young dancers together on a world stage where they are judged on their technical skills and performances.

“We were one of only five groups selected from Canada to attend this premier event and we are thrilled to have this opportunity to travel and perform abroad,” said Northern Lights School of Dance artistic director Deborah Lemaire. “Our dancers will be wonderful ambassadors for northern Canada and Yukon. We are extremely grateful to the council for their support in assisting us to participate in such a prestigious festival.”

The next deadline for the Touring Artist Fund is June 15.

Applicants are encouraged to consult the fund administrator before applying. Telephone: 867-667-8789, toll free at 1-800-661-0408 ext. 8789. Email: [artsfund@gov.yk.ca](mailto:artsfund@gov.yk.ca)

List of recipients attached:

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**Touring Artist Fund March 2009 recipients:**

	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>
1	Annie Lou	Tour of B.C. and Alberta during May and June	\$8,000
2	Lynn Blaikie	Travel and shipping to the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik, NWT July	\$1,000
3	Philomena Carroll	Two visual art exhibitions in galleries in Vernon and Campbell River, B.C., mid August - October	\$1,878
4	Done Gone String Band	California Worldfest Tour and performances en route July	\$8,000
5	Jackie Dowell-Irvine	Travel and shipping to the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik, NWT July	\$1,000
6	Northern Lights Dance Frazee - NLSD performing group	Performing <i>Raven Steals the Sun</i> at the Dance and the Child International Conference, Kingston, Jamaica in August	\$8,000
7	George Roberts	Travel and shipping to the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik, NWT July	\$1,000
8	Dennis Shorty	Travel and shipping to the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik, NWT July	\$1,000
9	Ann Smith	To exhibit work and demonstrate at the <i>Parallel Worlds</i> exhibition at the Portland Oregon Japanese Garden, June	\$2,500
10	Sour Brides Theatre	National tour of <i>So Many Doors</i> to NWT and B.C.	\$8,000
11	Harreson Tanner	Travel and shipping to the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik, NWT July	\$1,000
12	Lena White	Travel and shipping to the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik, NWT July	\$1,000
13	Wendy Whitmore	Travel and shipping to the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik, NWT July	\$1,000
14	Brian (Bud) Young	Travel and shipping to the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik, NWT July	\$1,000
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$44,378</b>