

FOR RELEASE
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Education Partnership to Improve First Nation Workforce Engagement

WHITEHORSE – Education Minister Patrick Rouble today announced \$162,955 in funding for a new education initiative to be delivered in partnership with Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Yukon College.

The Education and Employment Training (EET) program is geared to improve the First Nation's workforce engagement and it is the first project to be funded under the Government of Yukon's new Labour Market Agreement (LMA) with the Government of Canada.

"The EET program supports the Government of Yukon's commitment to work with our partners to enhance transitions between different levels of education, training and the world of work," Minister Rouble said. "We can help Kwanlin Dün citizens engage successfully in the workforce by creating responsive education opportunities that meet their needs."

"It is clear that the jobs of tomorrow will require additional skills and training," Human Resources and Skills Development Canada Minister Diane Finley said. "That is why we are pleased to work with the Yukon government to support programs that will help Yukoners come out of this economic downturn better prepared for the jobs of the future."

The EET program will provide a new level of educational support for Kwanlin Dün citizens by addressing the academic, employment and life skill needs of adult learners. The EET program will offer support for the future growth and development of community-based adult education initiatives for Kwanlin Dün citizens. Kwanlin Dün and Yukon College anticipate the first EET program students will begin their studies this fall.

The EET program also provides Kwanlin Dün citizens with access to supportive expertise in the development of a comprehensive, long-term, community-based education plan. This plan will be a blueprint for developing and implementing future adult education initiatives and increasing workforce integration for Kwanlin Dün citizens in the future.

"This is a meaningful initiative that will have long term impacts for the citizens of Kwanlin Dün First Nation," Kwanlin Dün Human Resources, Education and Social Assistance director Art Stephenson said. "The program will target critical education and training needs, while taking steps toward planning for better adult education opportunities in the future."

"We are very excited to be a part of the EET program and we look forward to engaging in this work with our partners," Yukon College's dean of Applied Science and Management Shelagh Rowles said.

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Backgrounder attached.

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Backgrounder – Labour Market Agreements

The Government of Yukon recently signed two labour market agreements with the federal government that will provide resources to support new and enhanced labour market development initiatives.

Yukon's new Labour Market Agreement (LMA) will help those unemployed people who are not eligible for employment insurance (EI) benefits or who are low-skilled and in need of skill enhancements. The LMA will work in cooperation with the territory's new Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA), which targets individuals who receive EI.

Under a new LMDA, Yukon will now be responsible for the design and delivery of skills and employment training programs for EI-eligible residents. Similar agreements are already in place in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Programs and services supported by the LMA and the LMDA will ensure that the workforce readiness training needs of all Yukoners are met. The new labour market agreements will work to increase participation in the labour force by providing Yukoners with the skills they need to succeed in the world of work. The agreements will also support Yukon's economy by ensuring there is an adequate supply of skilled workers.

Yukon will receive \$5.9 million over five years under the LMA. In addition, Yukon will receive \$2.9 million over the next two years through the federal Strategic Training and Transition Fund, which is delivered through the LMA.