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Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women

WHITEHORSE – Seven community-based projects that will assist in increasing awareness of violence against Aboriginal women will receive government funding, Minister Responsible for the Women’s Directorate Marian C. Horne announced today.

“Reducing the incidence of violence against Aboriginal women continues to be a priority for the Yukon government,” Horne said. “These projects will assist in supporting Aboriginal women in developing culturally sensitive approaches that meaningfully address the needs of each unique community.”

The Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund has doubled to \$200,000 yearly for programs and events designed and developed by Aboriginal women for their communities. This year marks the first time that two-year projects will be piloted under the fund. This year also marks an increase in the maximum allowable request for projects to \$25,000 for one-year projects and \$50,000 for two-year projects.

“I am pleased that some communities will have the opportunity to provide sustainable programming over a longer period of time,” Horne added.

Since 2004, the Women’s Directorate has contributed approximately \$700,000 toward projects.

The following three groups received funding for the 2009–10 fiscal year:

Kluane First Nation	\$19,500
Yukon Aboriginal Women’s Council	\$25,000
Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in	\$15,000

The following four groups received funding for the 2009–10 and 2010–11 fiscal years:

Kwanlin Dün First Nation	\$43,450
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations	\$30,350
Selkirk First Nation	\$28,000
Skookum Jim Friendship Centre	\$38,500

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Attachment: Background information about projects

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BACKGROUND

PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

The two-year project will feature a women's retreat in each year to address family violence. In addition, women's circles will be established in Haines Junction and Takhini that will meet regularly to provide continuing support and monthly workshops throughout the winters of 2009–10 and 2010–11. These initiatives will teach women new life skills. *Contact Mary Kane at 867-634-4238.*

Kluane First Nation Health and Social

The one-year project will feature a fall moose hunting and fishing harvest retreat and ongoing workshops in Burwash to support their weekly women's traditional crafts group. Retreat workshops will include facilitation by Shelley Cardinal, the creator of the Walking the Prevention Circle program that focuses on abuse and family violence from an Aboriginal perspective. *Contact Shannon Sirosky at 867-841-4616.*

Kwanlin Dün First Nation Community Wellness

The two-year project, *Moms Moving Forward*, will address the interconnections between violence and substance abuse among pregnant or parenting Aboriginal women. The holistic therapy program will examine healthy relationships, trauma, violence substance abuse, communications, safety, nutrition, attachment and parenting through facilitated groups sessions meeting three days a week for six weeks. *Contact Glenna Tetlich at 867-668-7289.*

Selkirk First Nation

Building upon last year's three-day retreat facilitated by Nina Bolton and Dr. Bill Stewart at Minto Landing for women from Pelly, Carmacks and Mayo. This two-year project will provide for two community initiatives respectively addressing strategies of intervention in family violence and a couple to couple counselling retreat. *Contact Millie Johnson at 867-537-3331.*

Skookum Jim Friendship Centre

Women will engage in educational, cultural, social and recreational activities to build self-confidence and esteem and increase knowledge of the long-term impacts of violence. The two-year initiative will feature a paddling project, a woman's health fair and a bi-weekly women's group. Participants will design and create a campaign to educate others about violence and develop a plan of action around: the Sisters in Spirit Vigil (October 4); the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (December 6); and International Women's Day (March 8). *Contact Michelle Kolla at 867-633-7863.*

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

The one-year project will feature a retreat for up to 30 women with the assistance of the RCMP and the Dawson City Women's Shelter. The retreat will teach awareness about violence prevention and the development of safety plans. A weekly women's group will provide follow-up and continuing support and a safe place to talk about abuse and to learn and practice recovery tools, healthy coping and relationship and self-care skills. *Contact Debbie Nagano at 867-993-7149.*

Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council

In response to the recommendations of the Yukon and National Aboriginal Women's summits, this one-year project will assist community women throughout Yukon to receive violence prevention training. The project will utilize a violence prevention toolkit developed by the Native Women's Association of Canada through a model of presentation and workshops tested across Canada. *Contact Winnie Peterson at 867-667-6162.*