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### **Young Rural Workers to Receive Employment Training Opportunities**

WHITEHORSE – Rural youth have a new program to help them gain employment skills, thanks to the Government of Yukon Department of Education and Yukon Chamber of Commerce.

The Young Workers Employment Program, delivered by the Yukon Chamber of Commerce will provide an 80 per cent wage subsidy, to a maximum of \$12 per hour, for employers that can offer workplace training and full-time work placements for 420 to 700 hours to rural youth. Up to 29 wage subsidies will be available.

“Our Government believes in helping young Canadians get access to the tools they need to contribute to Canada,” federal Human Resources and Skills Development Minister Diane Finley said. “Through our Labour Market Agreement with Yukon, we are ensuring that all Canadians are job-ready and can contribute to our economy.”

“With the Young Workers Employment Program, the Department of Education is supporting immediate and long-term job opportunities for youth in their respective regions by assisting employers in providing on-the-job training,” Education Minister Patrick Rouble said. “This wage subsidy will provide employers with the initiative and incentive to invest in youth when they secure personnel to meet their business needs.”

“The Yukon Chamber of Commerce is extremely pleased to be delivering the Young Workers Employment Program on behalf of the Yukon and federal governments,” Yukon Chamber of Commerce chair Jerome Babyn said. “Jobs and employment are high on our list of priorities and we look forward to assisting young Yukoners with acquiring the skills needed to find meaningful employment, while assisting Yukon businesses.”

A high number of unemployed individuals who are not eligible to receive training or other kinds of assistance from Employment Insurance are youth, and often these people have difficulty sustaining or securing employment due to the lack of transferable skills and inexperience in the workforce.

The Young Workers Employment Program is open to young persons between 18 and 25 years old who are currently unemployed, whether or not they qualify for Employment Insurance benefits.

Advanced Education is contributing \$300,000 from the Canada-Yukon Labour Market Agreement. Under the LMA, the Government of Canada is providing Yukon with funding to increase training for individuals, including those who are low-skilled and require essential skills to reach their full potential. The LMA focuses on people often excluded from the workforce, including First Nations, older workers, youth, social assistance recipients and people with disabilities.

Contact:

Emily Younker  
Cabinet Communications  
867-633-7961  
[emily.younker@gov.yk.ca](mailto:emily.younker@gov.yk.ca)

Michele Royle  
Communications, Education  
867-393-7102  
[michele.royle@gov.yk.ca](mailto:michele.royle@gov.yk.ca)

Dave Austin  
President, Yukon Chamber of Commerce  
867-667-2000