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Inmates Give Back to the Community

WHITEHORSE – Low-risk inmates at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre are learning new skills that are bringing direct benefits to the community.

A new work program is teaching inmates marketable skills in teamwork, carpentry, painting and general labour.

“We have heard through consulting with the public that inmates should not be idle while they are serving their sentence,” Justice Minister Marian C. Horne said. “Work programs are necessary to teach inmates the skills and confidence they need to become productive members of society after they complete their sentences. It is a major step in preventing them from re-offending.”

“The City of Whitehorse is supportive and pleased to participate in this meaningful program,” Whitehorse Mayor Bev Buckway said. “The work these inmates accomplished has been a benefit to our citizens and had a positive impact on our community.”

Recently, inmates cleaned up Kishwoot Island Park for the city and provided toy boxes and a covered sand box for the Kwanlin Dün First Nation’s Dusk’a Head Start Early Learning Centre. Inmates have helped clear and maintain stretches of the Trans-Canada Millennium Trail and filled thousands of bags of sand to help protect communities threatened with flooding.

New and modified programs are a critical component of the Correctional Redevelopment Strategic Plan, released in 2007.

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