

FOR RELEASE #10-008
January 20, 2010

Advanced Education offers youth a STEP up

WHITEHORSE – Yukon employers participating in Advanced Education’s Student Training and Employment Program (STEP) this summer will have the option to offer four additional weeks of subsidized work experience to students, Education Minister Patrick Rouble announced today.

“STEP is highly successful in preparing students to make the transition from school to work by giving them valuable on-the-job experience,” Rouble said. “It also helps employers meet their summer staffing requirements while benefiting from a subsidy. This enables Yukon students to explore Yukon opportunities.”

STEP jobs provide students throughout Yukon communities with opportunities to gain practical experience and develop professional relationships that can help them find permanent work after they graduate. In previous years, STEP positions were subsidized for 12 weeks and this year they can continue for up to 16 weeks.

Advanced Education will subsidize up to 77 STEP positions in the private sector and 63 in the public sector. Employers will receive \$7.20 per hour toward the student’s wages.

STEP began in 1978 with a total of 24 jobs offered and since then changes to the program have resulted in increased positions and flexibility. Since 2008, recent post-secondary graduates have been eligible.

Also in 2008, an incremental wage system was introduced and STEP wages increase according to the level of post-secondary education the student has completed. For example, STEP students are paid a minimum of \$14.40 after a year’s post-secondary study and a minimum of \$17.19 after four years’ study.

Lists of positions available and details about how to apply can be found at www.education.gov.yk.ca/advanceded/employment. The application deadline is February 19.

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