

FOR RELEASE
April 7, 2016

Government of Yukon invests \$1 million in community-based mental health initiatives

WHITEHORSE—Yukon communities will soon have access to a \$1 million innovation pot, subject to legislative approval, to help them meet the mental health needs of their citizens.

"This fund will support the principles and concepts of the Yukon Mental Wellness Strategy, which will be released in the next few weeks, and will help communities tailor capacity-building initiatives to meet their specific needs," Health and Social Services Minister Mike Nixon said.

The fund will be time-limited and cannot be used for core funding. Communities and individuals will have to submit proposals that support community capacity-building. The government is currently working with communities, stakeholders and service providers to determine how best to use the fund. It is anticipated that these details will be finalised to coincide with the release of the Yukon Mental Wellness Strategy.

"Yukon communities will benefit from having access to more resources and this fund is one way of providing them the support they need," Mental Health Association of Yukon (MHAY) chair Ray Wells said.

MHAY is supporting Yukon communities with an innovative project of its own. Living Life to the Full, a program to help those struggling with anxiety and mild to moderate depression, is now being piloted in Dawson City, Watson Lake and Carcross and will be offered in Haines Junction later this summer.

-30-

Contact:

Dan Macdonald
Cabinet Communications
867-393-6470
dan.macdonald@gov.yk.ca

Patricia Living
Communications, Health and Social Services
867-667-3673
patricia.living@gov.yk.ca

News Release #16-115



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here:
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.