

FOR RELEASE  
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## **Government of Yukon proposes amendments to the Students Financial Assistance Act**

WHITEHORSE—Minister of Education Doug Graham introduced amendments to the *Students Financial Assistance Act* in the Yukon Legislative Assembly today.

The proposed changes will improve the application process for student financial assistance and will increase the funding available by \$376,000.

"The *Students Financial Assistance Act* helps make post-secondary education more affordable for Yukoners," Graham said. "These proposed amendments will ensure that funding is distributed in a flexible and equitable way to current and future Yukon post-secondary students."

Under the proposed amendments, students eligible for the Yukon Grant must have completed at least two years of high school or the equivalent in Yukon, they or their parents must be residents of Yukon and they will not be eligible to apply for post-secondary funding in another province or territory.

The proposed amendments also expand eligibility for the Yukon Grant to more First Nations citizens. Currently, the citizens of First Nations who receive post-secondary education funding through the Government of Canada are not eligible for the Yukon Grant. These changes will ensure that all Yukon First Nations students who meet eligibility requirements are able to receive financial assistance through the Yukon Grant as well.

"Kluane First Nation is pleased to see that our citizens who are furthering their education will now be eligible to receive the Yukon Grant," Kluane First Nation Chief Math'ieya Alatini said. "The amendments overall reflect a huge improvement in the legislation demonstrating a vital recognition of the critical importance of post-secondary education to build our future."

The Yukon Grant program provides significant benefits to Yukon post-secondary students. Last year, more than \$3.4 million in non-repayable grants were dispersed to 726 students through the program.

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