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May 7, 2010

Northern Strategy Trust helps Kwanlin Dün First Nation develop healing camp

WHITEHORSE – Plans for a traditional land-based healing program are now underway, following the signing of a \$300,000 Northern Strategy Trust Fund agreement by the Yukon government and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation.

"We are pleased to support Kwanlin Dün's plans for a traditional healing camp for Yukoners. This is just one example of how the \$40-million Northern Strategy fund is bringing benefits for the territory," Premier Dennis Fentie said.

The aim of the land-based treatment camp will be to help people with addictions by using traditional, as well as modern, healing techniques and by reconnecting participants with the natural world.

The project will have three phases. Phase one will focus on designing the program, phase two will focus on delivering a pilot project and developing an evaluation strategy, and phase three will focus on long-term design and sustainability.

"I would like to commend the KDFN justice director and the steering committee for their fine work in developing the programming for the Jackson Lake Treatment Facility," McIntyre-Takhini MLA John Edzerza said. "For over 30 years, I have hoped for a program like this in our territory, and to see it becoming reality is very encouraging."

The project builds on the Therapeutic Community Resource Feasibility Study that was conducted jointly by Kwanlin Dün and the Yukon government and was supported by the Northern Strategy Trust Fund in 2007.

"This camp will eventually help meet the treatment needs of all Yukoners and will be based on programs already developed by Kwanlin Dün in partnership with other Yukon wellness service providers," Fentie added.

The healing camp was one of 31 proposals accepted for funding in the last round of the Northern Strategy Trust Fund. The purpose of the fund, which closed in 2009, was to support projects that contribute to Yukon's social, political, economic or cultural development, or to preserve Yukon's environment, culture or heritage. For more information, visit http://www.eco.gov.yk.ca/northern_strategy_trust.html.

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