



## Government of Yukon

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**NEWS** *release*

FOR RELEASE #11-147  
 September 9, 2011



### Individual Learning Centre offers new pre-employment program for Yukon youth

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon is investing in a new apprenticeship program at the Individual Learning Centre which will provide opportunities for youth working to complete their high school education, Education Minister Patrick Rouble announced today.

"It's exciting to provide alternative options to youth who want to take part in trades training while working toward their high school diploma," Rouble said. "The Department of Education is pleased to support this program, which will create valuable career opportunities for eight youth who are looking for an alternative to the regular high school program. This is another example of how the government is helping to prepare Yukoners for the many opportunities that exist in our growing economy."

The government will invest \$53,120 in a new two-year hairstyling pre-employment program, with priority enrolment given to First Nations women under the age of 21.

The Individual Learning Centre provides alternative education opportunities for students from Grades 9 through 12. It focuses on learners who have had a history of difficulties in the regular school program and provides self-paced programming with one-on-one teacher assistance.

This new program supports the Yukon government's goals in One Vision, Multiple Pathways, the government's commitment to expand apprenticeship programs, and its values of engaging youth and promoting success for each learner.

Successes in six-week hairstyling programs that were piloted at the Individual Learning Centre have demonstrated the potential for changing lives. The pilot helped students to finish high school and some went on to complete trade certification in hairstyling.

Instructor and student recruitment is underway for the new program. Students will learn the skills they need to work in a certifiable trade, while completing technical training in a small group, delivered in an environment designed for their success. They will also have the opportunity to be involved in graduation activities and fashion shows co-ordinated by the Individual Learning Centre's Fashion and Design program, and a professional photo shoot for their portfolios.

The program will run four hours per day for two years, for a total of 1,500 hours. The curriculum is broken down into eight courses and helps students meet all Yukon graduation requirements.

Last July, the Individual Learning Centre received \$13,222 from the Public Schools branch's Leaders in Education/Innovation Fund for materials and curriculum planning for this program.

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