



## Government of Yukon

Government of Yukon » August 2011 » News Release #11-118

### Newsroom

#### Latest news releases

#### News by theme

##### News by department

Community Services  
Economic Development  
Education  
Energy, Mines and Resources  
Environment  
Executive Council Office  
Finance  
French Language Services Directorate  
Health and Social Services  
Highways and Public Works  
Justice  
Public Service Commission  
Tourism and Culture  
Women's Directorate

##### News by corporations

Yukon Development Corporation  
Yukon Energy Corporation  
Yukon Housing Corporation  
Yukon Liquor Corporation  
Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board

#### Joint news releases

#### Premier's News

### News by date

#### 2017 news releases

January  
February  
March  
April  
May  
June  
July  
August  
September  
October  
November  
December

#### News archive



**NEWS** release

FOR RELEASE #11-118  
August 4, 2011



### Commissioner of Yukon presents Award for Bravery to Whitehorse resident

WHITEHORSE—The Commissioner's Award for Bravery will be presented to Trevor Smith at the Westmark Whitehorse on Saturday, August 6 for his actions in saving the life of a fellow claim staker on November 15, 2009.

"I am proud to present this award to a very deserving Yukoner," Commissioner Doug Phillips said. "This young man's life was saved as a direct result of Trevor acting quickly and decisively, putting his own life at risk."

During a claim staking operation 160 kilometres north of Mayo, an avalanche was triggered that buried one of the stakers. Trevor convinced the helicopter pilot to set him down and proceeded to search for the staker. Approximately 15 minutes after the avalanche, Trevor noticed two inches of a radio antenna sticking out of the snow. He dug furiously to reach the man's head, which was under three feet of snow. The man was not breathing. Trevor continued to dig until the weight of snow was off of the man's back. After another five to 10 minutes, the man started to breathe. Trevor radioed the pilot of the helicopter and the man was airlifted to the nursing station in Mayo.

"Trevor distinguished himself by acting with bravery and great strength of character in a very dangerous situation," Phillips added.

The Commissioner's Award for Bravery recognizes individuals who have responded with great effort, at considerable personal risk in hazardous circumstances, to save or safeguard, or attempt to save or safeguard, the life of one or more persons. The last Award for Bravery was presented in 2008.

For more information, visit the [Commissioner of Yukon](#) website.

-30-

#### Contact:

Cathy Cheeseman  
Commissioner's Office  
867-667-5121  
[cathy.cheeseman@gov.yk.ca](mailto:cathy.cheeseman@gov.yk.ca)

Stefanie Richardson  
Communications, Executive Council Office  
867-667-8968  
[stefanie.richardson@gov.yk.ca](mailto:stefanie.richardson@gov.yk.ca)

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