



Government of Yukon

Government of Yukon » August 2011 » News Release #11-133

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



NEWSrelease

FOR RELEASE #11-133

August 29, 2011



Yukon College opens new community campuses

Dawson City - Two new Yukon College community campuses were opened in Pelly Crossing and Dawson City this week by representatives from the Governments of Canada and Yukon, and Yukon College.

Yukon Education Minister Patrick Rouble and Yukon College President Dr. Karen Barnes attended ribbon cutting events in both communities. They were joined by Yukon Member of Parliament Ryan Leef in Pelly Crossing and by Senator Daniel Lang in Dawson City.

"Our government's investment in post-secondary infrastructure has given Yukon College students and researchers the facilities they need to be global leaders in their fields," said Member of Parliament Ryan Leef. "This project will allow the Yukon College Community Campus in Pelly Crossing to strengthen its capacity and build on its reputation as a leading institution of higher learning."

"Our government's investments in college and university infrastructure have created and maintained jobs across Canada," said Senator Lang. "This project will allow Yukon College to strengthen its reputation as an innovative leader in our community and across Canada."

"The opening of these two campuses is a strong statement that the Government of Yukon is acting on its promise to increase access to high quality post-secondary education and training in the territory," Rouble said. "The new college facilities in Pelly Crossing and Dawson City will support both students and their communities for years to come, and will provide training to assist the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Selkirk First Nation in implementing their self-government agreements."

As part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government of Canada introduced the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, a two-year, \$2-billion economic stimulus measure to support infrastructure enhancement at Canadian post-secondary institutions, including universities and community colleges. Today's announcement celebrates the completion of projects that qualified under the program in Yukon.

The Government of Canada contributed \$2 million, the Government of Yukon contributed \$2.56 million, and Yukon College contributed over \$300,000 to help complete the projects.

"We're pleased that both the Government of Canada and the Yukon government saw the need for these campuses and were able to support their development," Barnes said. "Our strong relationship with Selkirk First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the communities as a whole will facilitate the joint creation of meaningful programming."

The campuses will be utilized not only for traditional post-secondary classes, but also as training facilities for local business and industry.

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See backgrounder attached.

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Backgrounder: Yukon College community campus construction projects

Dawson City: The Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon, in partnership with Yukon College, has built a new community campus in Dawson City attached to the recently-renovated building that houses the college's Yukon School of Visual Arts. Yukon's second-largest city will now be served by the college's second-largest campus. Designed to blend in with Dawson City's 19th century gold rush era architecture, the 5,678 square foot campus offers 21st century learning space, with flexible classrooms, two video conference rooms and a computer lab.

Pelly Crossing: The new Yukon College community campus in Pelly Crossing has been built in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon in the heart of the community, near the Selkirk First Nation Government Building and next to the Eliza Van Bibber School, symbolizing its close ties with both the First Nation's Education & Training Department and the Yukon Department of Education. The 2,510 square foot campus features classrooms, a videoconference room and a computer lab.

The opening of these two new campuses will significantly improve the college's ability to serve local First Nations and communities and contribute to community capacity building. Guided by local community campus committees in consultation with the Selkirk First Nation and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, these campuses will offer a comprehensive array of college programs, including adult basic education, academic upgrading, university transfer, college certificate and diploma, science, trades & technology, and continuing education. Courses will be delivered in the classroom, on the land, and using blends of technologies such as videoconferencing and on-line learning.

Knowledge Infrastructure Program

The Knowledge Infrastructure Program has helped to provide economic stimulus and promote employment by creating jobs for engineers, architects, tradespeople and technicians. The federal government provided up to 50 per cent of the cost of selected projects on a cost-share basis.

Canada's Economic Action Plan set out to stimulate the Canadian economy and to improve our long-term competitiveness through \$12 billion in new infrastructure investment, which includes the \$2-billion Knowledge Infrastructure Program.

For more information: www.ic.gc.ca/knowledge-infrastructure.

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