



## Government of Yukon

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FOR RELEASE #11-050

April 15, 2011

### Youth Employment Centre opens

WHITEHORSE—Yukon youth will have a new resource to help them discover their career options, Education Minister Patrick Rouble and Skookum Jim Friendship Centre President Nelson Lepine announced today.

"The Department of Education is proud to partner with Skookum Jim Friendship Centre to help youth across Yukon identify the right career choice, and realize their full potential," Rouble said. "This three-year pilot program will open doors through education and awareness."

The Youth Employment Centre, located in the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, will provide employment services such as career planning, counselling, work placements and mentorships for youth aged 16 to 30. The centre will also co-ordinate with community partners to offer training in life skills, resume writing, job search and interviewing skills.

"Together with our partners, we will offer youth an opportunity to pursue the career of their dreams," Lepine said. "To our communities, we offer a growing, vibrant and untapped workforce made up of Yukon youth—youth who will have the opportunity to show our communities that they can be successful when provided the tools and support to pursue their dreams."

A key component of this project is outreach. Career counsellors will actively seek out youth to talk with them about career plans and life skills training. In addition to providing services in Whitehorse, the centre has a mobile component to serve communities across Yukon. There will also be subsidies available for employers matched with youth who are seeking to gain on-the-job experience.

The Education department is providing \$300,000 per year for three years; \$100,000 from the Canada-Yukon Labour Market Agreement and \$200,000 from the department's Youth at Risk fund. The Canada-Yukon Labour Market Development Agreement provides funding to support people who are often excluded from the labour force, including First Nation people, older workers, youth, social assistance recipients and people with disabilities.

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