



Government of Yukon

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NEWSrelease

FOR RELEASE #11-024
 February 11, 2011

Young Yukon artists to perform at Halifax 2011 Canada Games

WHITEHORSE—Yukon is sending three young artists to the National Artist Program of the 2011 Canada Winter Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia February 11 to 27.

"Yukon is very proud to support these talented individuals as members of Team Yukon," Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor said. "Integrating the arts with sports allows Yukon to contribute its best representatives to the success of the games and gives the participants opportunities to raise their levels of expertise in their individual artistic disciplines."

Team Yukon artists Clancy McInnis (music), Jada Powell (dance) and Valerie Herdes (dance) will travel with Yukon National Artist Program manager Andrea Simpson-Fowler and mission staff for Culture Tracey Bilsky.

"The Canada Winter Games provide the opportunity for artists as well as athletes to showcase their talents at the national level," Bilsky said. "Whether competing in sport or collaborating in art, these games allow Yukon young people to shine on the national stage. In my role as Team Yukon's mission staff for culture, I am delighted with the creativity and energy of our culture team and look forward to supporting their work at the games."

The National Artist Program is the cultural component of the Canada Games. The program bridges the pursuit of excellence between the sport and cultural worlds. Youth from across Canada present their work in performing and visual arts through a series of workshops, lessons and collaborative exercises under the guidance of mentors and guest artists, all experts in their chosen fields.

Team Yukon's artists will also attend a retreat at the Ross Creek Centre for the Arts located in rural Nova Scotia, lead their own mentoring workshops for youth from the Halifax Regional Municipality and work in an artists' residency culminating in a gala performance.

Yukon government, through the Department of Tourism and Culture, has provided \$4,100 toward travel expenses for the artists to attend the games. For more information about Halifax 2011 Canada Games and the National Artist Program visit www.canadagames2011.ca.

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Yukon government photo attached

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YG photo:

Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor meets with Team Yukon's young artists representing Yukon at the upcoming Halifax 2011 Canada Winter Games

Minister Elaine Taylor (left) attends a team meeting with the cultural contingent. Others in the photo: Maren Bilsky (fan), Tracey Bilsky (Yukon mission staff for culture), Jada Powell (dancer), Andrea Simpson-Fowler (team manager), Valerie Herdes (dancer) and in front, Clancy McInnis (musician).

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