



FOR RELEASE
April 27, 2015

Blended learning models expand to Ross River and Faro

WHITEHORSE—This semester two more rural community schools—Ross River and Faro—will be integrating blended learning models into the classroom.

"Blended learning is a mix of in-person and online instruction, where students and teachers can customize their educational experiences through the power of modern technology," Minister of Education Doug Graham said. "This model improves access to distance learning and online courses so students, especially those in rural areas, can tailor their learning to best suit their needs."

The Ross River School and the Del Van Gorder School are the latest Yukon schools to implement a blended learning approach. Watson Lake Secondary School was the first school to adopt blended learning and students and staff have observed significant changes in learning atmosphere, student engagement and attendance. Last fall, the Robert Service School in Dawson City, Tantalus Community School in Carmacks, St. Elias Community School in Haines Junction and Porter Creek Secondary School in Whitehorse began using this model.

By using distributed learning resources such as Moodle.org and getting personalized support from their teachers, blended learning enables students to influence their own learning and pace while working on computers and mobile devices.

"This mix of technology and teacher instruction is an interactive and engaging approach to developing digital literacy and communication skills that will help prepare students for today's workforce," Graham added. "These expanded educational opportunities all tie in with our recently announced plans to improve outcomes for Yukon students."

The Yukon government is committed to developing blended learning models in other community schools by working with school staff, educational technology consultants, First Nations, school councils, Department of Education support staff and curriculum.

-30-

Contact:

Elaine Schiman
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

Ronuk Modha
Communications, Education
867-332-5082
ronuk.modha@gov.yk.ca

News Release #15-151