



FOR RELEASE
January 15, 2015

First Nations receive funds from Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust

WHITEHORSE— The Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund awarded program funding to both Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) and Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN) to fund projects that support victims and preventing crime.

"Activities that bring the community together for learning and sharing can be very effective defenses against crime," Minister of Justice Mike Nixon said. "These projects are developing life-long skills and empowering individuals to make healthy life choices."

CAFN received \$18,320 for the Winter Communications and Outdoors Skills training program. Local youth will be provided with regular access to inspiring outdoor activities and educational sessions, including a week-long traditional knowledge and outdoor winter survival skills camp led by Elders.

"This funding will enable the CAFN Anda Ta Youth Center to offer an important program and we are very grateful," CAFN Chief Steve Smith said. "With the help of our partners, we are providing youth with the support they need to make positive life choices and achieve success at this crucial time in their lives."

CTFN received \$50,000 for the Skills for Building, Skills for Life project. The ten-week program provides Carcross/Tagish men with the opportunity to build log cabins and complete daily physical and emotional wellness activities.

"The log cabin project is designed to offer both employment and life skills," CTFN director of finance and infrastructure Nelson Lepine said. "Builders run the camp as a team—they make decisions, solve problems and support each other on their individual goals. Everyone has a voice and important role."

The Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund awards funding twice a year for eligible projects intended to: reduce crime; prevent violence against women and children; address the root causes of crime; provide services and information to victims of crime; or provide information about crime prevention and victimization.

Proposals are reviewed by the Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund board of trustees. Board members include community members and representatives from the Yukon government, First Nations, women's organizations and the RCMP.

The fund has supported Yukon First Nations, non-profit organizations, municipal governments and school councils or boards since 1998. Financing comes from a variety of sources including proceeds from the Klondike Visitors Association slot machine agreement, victim fine surcharges, *Criminal Code* fines, the proceeds of seized crime and from donations.

The next funding application deadline is February 15, 2015.

Learn more: Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund

-30-

See backgrounder below.

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Background

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Anda Ta Youth Centre – \$18,320 for their Winter Communications and Outdoors Skills training program. This program provides youth with access to counseling, skills development training and activities that empower youth to make healthy lifestyles and relationship choices. Youth will participate in sessions that discuss the impacts of drugs and alcohol and teach strategies to address domestic violence. The program also includes trips to Mount Sima and a week-long wilderness camp designed to teach modern and traditional wilderness skills. Contact: Will Jones, 634-2012; will@yknet.ca.

Carcross/Tagish First Nation – \$50,000 for their Skills for Building, Skills for Life project. This project provides Carcross/Tagish men 18 and older with the training to develop employment and life skills. During the 10-week program, participants build log cabins and complete daily physical and emotional wellness activities. Contact: Nelson Lepine, 821-4251 ext. 8240; nelson.lepine@ctfn.ca.

News Release #15-015



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