



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Five youth programs receive Crime Prevention and Victim Services funding**

WHITEHORSE—The Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund awarded \$118,290 to support Yukon projects with the goal of preventing crime and providing support to child and youth victims.

"Each of the projects helps foster youth safety and a sense of community," Minister of Justice Mike Nixon said. "By funding these projects, youth-focused organizations are making important strides in crime prevention and victim support."

This funding cycle's recipients include: Boys and Girls Club of Yukon; Bringing Youth Towards Equality (BYTE); Northern Cultural Expressions Society; Nakai Theatre Ensemble; and Yukon Association for Community Living (YACL).

"The Boys and Girls Club of Yukon believes that being part of the community is important in the healthy development of youth. This program engages youth in community stewardship while inviting our community partners to take an active interest in the lives of youth," Boys and Girls Club Yukon administrative director Duncan Johnstone said. "With the help of the Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund we are working to strengthen the bonds of our community and address the root causes of crime."

The Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund is awarded twice a year for eligible projects that are 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.

"We are excited to be holding our Leaders in Training youth conference again in 2015—it's one of our most popular and effective programs," BYTE executive director Chris Rider said. "The support we've received will help us provide up to two youth from every Yukon community with the skills and knowledge they need to act as leaders against violence in their own communities."

The fund has supported Yukon community groups since 1998. 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 next application deadline is 4:30 p.m. on February 15.

Learn more about the Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund >>>

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## **Backgrounder – Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund funding recipients**

**Boys and Girls Club of Yukon** – \$15,000 for a community stewardship campaign. This project aims to encourage community stewardship and community understanding by creating opportunities for youth to work with groups such as: Mae Bachur Animal Shelter, Whitehorse Food Bank, Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, RCMP, City of Whitehorse and retirement homes. Incentives such as passes to the Canada Games Centre, Tahkini Hot Springs, Equinox Adventures and Mount Sima will be awarded to participants. Contact: Duncan Johnstone, 393-2824; ad@bgcyukon.com.

**Bringing Youth Toward Equality (BYTE)** – \$34,290 for rural violence prevention workshops and annual Leaders in Training (LIT) conference. BYTE's multi-day sessions will explore leadership skills, media, healthy relationships, gender stereotypes and violence. The project will socially engage youth through interactive activities designed to build confidence. Contact: Chris Rider, 667-7975; ed@yukonyouth.com.

**Nakai Theatre Ensemble** – \$2,000 for Haircuts by Children. This project will teach 30 children aged 8 to 12 to cut hair and work as a team to run a hair salon. After training with professional stylists, the children will hold a public event to cut the hair of adult volunteers and manage salon operations. Internationally renowned, this project is designed to empower, engage and build trust between youth and adults. Contact: Denise Lamb, 393-6040; gm@nakaitheatre.com.

**Northern Cultural Expressions Society** – \$47,000 for Culture Camps. This project will offer five, five-day culture camps for youth aged 12 to 18 in Whitehorse, Beaver Creek, Lewes Lake and Kluane National Park. Youth who are perceived to be at-risk are recruited through various agencies to participate in wellness practices, life-skills training, wilderness therapy, traditional First Nations cultural practices and outdoor activities. Contact: Jackie Bazett, 633-4186 ext 1; ed@northernculture.org.

**Yukon Association for Community Living (YACL)** – \$20,000 for Peer Mentor Youth Program. This project will provide youth with disabilities the opportunity to participate in weekly activities that enhance confidence, self-esteem and social skills. The Peer Mentor Youth Program aims to reduce the potential for vulnerable youth to commit crime or be victims of crime. Contact: Colette Acheson, 667-4606; yaclwhse@northwestel.net.

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