



FOR RELEASE  
December 18, 2015

## **Health Investment Fund supports community initiatives**

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon has awarded more than \$19,850, through the Health Investment Fund, to the Boys and Girls Club of Yukon, the Yukon Academy of Martial Arts, and the Yukon Home Educators Society.

"We are pleased to help these Yukon community groups provide opportunities for youth," Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Nixon said. "The Health Investment Fund encourages the development of new skills, and strengthen communities in healthy and safe ways."

The Boys and Girls Club of Yukon will deliver Yukon Blast and Breeze, a project that aims to provide youth with access to physical recreation opportunities in concert with modes of self-expression. The project will teach youth about the connection between physical and mental health to increase their self-esteem and leadership skills.

"The Yukon Blast and Breeze project combines Yukon culture, outdoor recreation, and youth self-expression into one program designed to facilitate positive physical and mental development," Boys and Girls Club of Yukon executive director Duncan Johnstone said. "Also, we are excited to get youth engaged in many activities such as the Dene Games, cross country and downhill skiing, trips to the animal preserve and hot springs, photography projects, art display production, and so much more."

The fund has supported Yukon community groups since the fall of 1991. Two levels of funding are offered through the Health Investment Fund. For projects over \$500, the next application deadline is at 4:30 p.m. on January 20, 2016. Applications for projects under \$500 can be sent at any time.

Organizations are encouraged to contact the Health Investment Fund before the deadline for assistance with developing project ideas.

### **Learn more:**

Health Investment Fund or call 867-393-6461

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See backgrounder.

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### **Backgrounder: December 2015 Health Investment Fund**

Boys and Girls Club of Yukon: \$10,000 – To assist with the “Yukon Blast and Breeze” project that aims to increase the physical and mental health of Whitehorse teens. The funding will assist with project coordinator and youth wages during a five month period.

Contact: Khoi Truong at 867-393-2824

Yukon Academy of Martial Arts: \$3,850 – To deliver workshops on self-confidence and non-violent conflict resolution, including a practical course in self-defense specifically designed to empower women and teenage girls. Funding will assist with instructor fees, advertising expenses and program materials for six weeks of sessions.

Contact: Vitold Jordan at 867-333-0997

Yukon Home Educators Society: \$6,000 – To offer the Peaceful Warrior Program to Yukon Home Educator Society students and families. This program will teach children and their parents to build self-confidence, physical strength, agility and self-discipline, and to understand conflict. The funding will assist with registration fees for homeschooled students for weekly training and workshops during a six month period.

Contact: Katherine Belisle at 867-393-3695

*News Release #15-392*



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