



FOR RELEASE

May 13, 2015

Whitehorse students celebrate French language education in talent show

WHITEHORSE—In celebration of *Journée de la francophonie yukonnaise* (Yukon Francophonie Day), and as part of national French for the Future festivities, students from six Yukon secondary schools presented the *Secondaire en spectacle* talent show today at the Yukon Arts Centre.

"This annual showcase of our secondary French students' talents and skills is a highlight of Yukon Francophonie Day," Minister of Education Doug Graham said. "*Secondaire en spectacle* celebrates our vibrant Francophone community and promotes the value of French language education."

The French language talent show featured performances by almost 400 students from four Whitehorse secondary schools (F.H. Collins, Porter Creek, Vanier Catholic and Académie Parhélie) and two rural schools (St. Elias in Haines Junction and Del Van Gorder in Mayo). The event provides an opportunity for French First Language and French Second Language students to come together for a half-day spent entirely in French.

"Events like *Secondaire en spectacle* give students a confidence boost that encourages them to use French outside the classroom and helps them gain an appreciation of the cultural and professional benefits of bilingualism," Graham added.

French for the Future is a national, not-for-profit organization supported by Canadian Heritage/*Patrimoine canadien* that promotes fluency in both of Canada's official languages and supports and motivates students on their paths towards bilingualism. French for the Future local forums across Canada coordinate student participation in activities such as *Secondaire en spectacle*. The Whitehorse local forum is supported by Canadian Parents for French, the Association franco-yukonnaise and the Department of Education.

-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 #15-173

