



FOR RELEASE
March 18, 2013

Yukon to celebrate Canada Water Week March 18 to 24

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon encourages each and every Yukoner to be a responsible water steward during Canada Water Week.

"We are encouraging all Yukoners to participate in Canada Water Week and to recognize and appreciate the importance of water to our communities," Environment Minister Currie Dixon said. "Yukoners can attend a water-themed film and art event, a generating facility tour, readings and even a free family swim."

The Yukon government is working with the Yukon Energy Corporation, the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, City of Whitehorse, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the Yukon Water Board to present almost 30 events and activities including:

- Classroom presentations in Whitehorse and Carcross schools,
- An *I Love My Water Body* art and writing contest for youth,
- Wildlife viewing event on river otters,
- Display panels at the Canada Games Centre and Elijah Smith Building, and
- A free family swim on March 23 at the Canada Games Centre.

A highlight this year is the presentation of the first-ever Excellence in Water Stewardship Award on Friday, March 22 to recognize achievements, innovative practice and leadership in this field.

"Our government is committed to ensuring the quality of our natural resources for present and future generations," Community Services Elaine Taylor said. "A sustainable water supply is crucial to our social, environmental and economic well-being."

The Council of the Federation supports Canada Water Week, encouraging territories and provinces through its Water Stewardship Council. Premiers recognize that water is a vital natural resource that is a necessity for all life on earth. The coast to coast to coast celebration encourages Canadians to work together to improve stewardship of our valuable freshwater resources.

The Yukon government departments involved in Canada Water Week events are Energy, Mines and Resources, Health and Social Services, Community Services and Environment Yukon. Detailed information is available on the Yukon Canada Water Week Facebook page, on posters around Whitehorse, and at www.env.gov.yk.ca/waterweek.

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Background information below.

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Background information about Yukon events for Canada Water Week 2013

Note: All events are free of charge

Water Film Nights

Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre

Thursday, March 21, 7:30 to 9 p.m.: *Seeking the Current (Chercher le Courant)*

Friday, March 22, 7:30 to 9 p.m.: *Chasing Ice*

Both films are part of the Planet in Focus Film Festival.

Art show

Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre

Thursday, March 21, 6:30 p.m.: opening night

Friday, March 22, 6:30 to 9 p.m.: features 14 water-themed works by Yukon artists

Classroom presentations

Various Whitehorse and Carcross schools, Grades 1 through 11

March 13 to 26 there will be presentations on one of these topics:

- H2O Olympics, Is there water on Zork?
- Erosion by Water, Flowing Glaciers, Water quality monitoring on the Yukon River
- The Effects of Placer Mining on Freshwater Ecosystems

Whitehorse hydro facility tour

Yukon Energy power plant

Friday, March 22, 10 a.m.

Pre-registration is required. Contact Travis Ritchie at 867-393-5350 or communications@yukonenergy.ca.

There is a 20-person limit. A second tour will be offered if there is sufficient interest.

Excellence in Water Stewardship Award presentation

Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre

Friday, March 22, 7 p.m.: Environment Minister Currie Dixon presents first-ever Yukon winner

Family Fun Day

Canada Games Centre

Saturday, March 23

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.: water themed songs, crafts and stories featuring entertainer Remy Rodden in the Family Literacy Centre.

3 p.m. to 6 p.m.: public information displays by various Yukon government departments outside of the pool area.

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.: free family swim with Project Wet facilitators to entertain and educate young water lovers and their parents.

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