



FOR RELEASE
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The 2013 Aboriginal Employees' Award of Honour presented to three employees

WHITEHORSE—Three Yukon government employees have been awarded the 2013 Aboriginal Employees' Award of Honour. The awards were presented by the Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission Currie Dixon, at the annual year-end gathering of the Aboriginal Employees Forum today.

The Aboriginal Employees' Award of Honour recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding Aboriginal employees in the Yukon government.

"It is a privilege to present the 2013 Aboriginal Employees' Award of Honour to these deserving employees," Dixon said. "The award recipients have unique roles within the public service that make positive contributions to our organization and to their communities."

The recipients of the 2013 Aboriginal Employees' Award of Honour are:

- Kevin Johnstone, Mayo District Conservation Officer, Department of Environment;
- Margaret Tom, Ross River Home Care Program worker, Department of Health and Social Services; and
- Janet McDonald, Director of First Nations Programs and Partnerships, Department of Education.

The Aboriginal Employees' Award of Honour was established in 2009 through the Aboriginal Employees Forum. The forum works to increase the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal employees in the Yukon government.

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See backgrounder below.

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Backgrounder

2013 Aboriginal Employees' Award of Honour recipients

Kevin Johnstone

District Conservation Officer, Department of Environment
Mayo

Kevin Johnstone has been the Mayo District Conservation Officer for the last 12 years. His nominators describe him as an excellent conservation officer who strives to provide exceptional service to the public. He is known for contributing to the community in many ways, as an ambulance attendant, a member of the local fire department and through his participation in many search and rescue efforts. Johnstone is a positive role model for youth, a team leader and in-house trainer for other staff. He contributes to development and training programs and re-certifications for Conservation Officers and other Yukon government employees.

Margaret Tom

Home Care Program Worker, Department of Health and Social Services
Ross River

Margaret Tom, a member of the Kaska First Nation, has worked in the Home Care Program for 12 years.

As a home care worker she provides physical, emotional and social support to clients. Her nominators say she regularly improves her knowledge and skills by taking formal and informal training opportunities, learning how to support her clients with safe and comforting personal care. She provides palliative care at the end of clients' lives in a way that is described as respectful and honouring the dignity and wishes of both clients and family members.

Janet McDonald

Director of First Nations Programs and Partnerships, Department of Education
Whitehorse

Janet McDonald oversees the development, implementation and evaluation of First Nation programming and curricula in her role as the Director of First Nations Programs and Partnerships at the Department of Education.

Her nominators say she is a positive and effective leader and has worked diligently to include Aboriginal languages and alternative programming, such as outdoor education, in Yukon schools. She brings a First Nations' perspective to the table in a professional and effective way. Her leadership style is described as sensitive, caring and compassionate.

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