



FOR RELEASE
September 22, 2014

Dawson to host second rural experiential model for rural students

DAWSON CITY—Yukon students in Grades 10 to 12 from eight rural communities will travel to Dawson City to participate in a Northern Rural Experiential Model (REM) from September 22 to 26.

"The Yukon government is committed to increasing the diversity of programs and learning outcomes for students in Yukon's rural communities," Minister of Education Elaine Taylor said. "This week of hands-on activities on the traditional territory of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in gives rural students access to specialized instruction from teachers and local experts in music, woodworking, food preparation, field studies, First Nations traditional knowledge and more."

Approximately 100 students from Carmacks, Dawson City, Faro, Haines Junction, Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Ross River and Watson Lake are expected to attend.

Participants will earn two Fine Arts and Applied Skills credits for completing 28 hours of training in intensive daytime sessions and 15 hours of evening learning activities. Students are able to choose from 10 daytime session options developed and delivered by rural teachers, administrators and department support staff. The course options include First Nations Fine Art, Hair and Esthetics, Guitar and Song Writing, Robotics, Wood Shop and more. Students will also participate in three evening activities of their choice, such as traditional games, sports, beading, sushi making and writing.

"The Northern REM is a unique, experiential approach that enables both students and educators to pursue their personal learning interests and connect with peers and colleagues in other Yukon communities. I would like to thank Yukon teachers, administrators and department support staff who worked together to create this unique program, which captures students' interests while challenging and motivating them to be successful," Taylor added.

The REM will open at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre, followed by dinner at the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Hall. Students participating in the Foods Education and Service Training (FEAST) training session will provide daily meals to the group and out-of-town students will stay at Robert Service School.

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See backgrounder.

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Backgrounder

Northern REM September 22 to 26, 2014

Week-long Daytime Sessions

Students will each choose and participate in one session for the week.

| Session Title | Session Description |
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| 1. FEAST (Foods Education and Service Training) | Students gain hands-on experience working in a commercial kitchen. FEAST students prepare meals for all REM participants. |
| 2. First Nations Fine Art | Students have the opportunity to work with an established Yukon First Nations artist designing First Nations art and learning basic carving techniques. |
| 3. Gold Rushes: Past, Present and Future | Immerses students in the history, influence and impacts of the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush, including the exploration of First Nations perspectives, geology, mining techniques and jewelry design. |
| 4. Hair and Esthetics | Students train to style hair, paint nails and practise other esthetics skills. |
| 5. Music: Guitars and Song Writing | Focus is on guitar and harmonica playing, songwriting and how to run a public address system. Students in this session perform their songs and run audio technical support for the REM finale. |
| 6. On the Land: Exploring our land, heritage and culture | Increases student knowledge and understanding of our natural environment. Students hike, canoe, explore and experience all the outdoors has to offer on the traditional territory of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Students participate in First Nations cultural activities and environmental field studies. |
| 7. Quilting | Students are taught sewing and quilting techniques by two celebrated Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Elders. Each student takes their handmade quilt home at the end of the week. |
| 8. REM Reporters | Students produce daily television, radio and print products featuring the people and activities of the REM. They plan, produce and show multimedia presentations and learn how to use digital tools such as cameras, audio recorders and computer editing software. |
| 9. Robotics | Pairs students up in teams to build robots to compete in robot soccer or freeze tag, using the Arduino Microcontroller platform and actual |

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| | components. Students learn basic robot construction, circuitry, servo motor modification, computer programming and more. |
| 10. Wood Shop: Longboards | Students make their own longboards. All materials are provided and students keep their finished projects. When projects are completed, students will have a chance to test out their handiwork. |

Evening Activities

Students will have the opportunity to participate in an activity of their choice on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening.

Leadership
 Traditional Sports
 Sushi Making
 Felting
 Jam (Music)
 Mini-Med School
 Traditional Games
 Zumba and Volleyball
 Bannock Making
 Wild 'n Rosie (Traditional Plant Use)
 Films for Youth
 Writers & Workshop
 Yoga & Basketball
 Delectable Desserts
 Beading
 So You Want to be a Paramedic?
 Outdoor Hiking

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