



FOR RELEASE

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Next generation of inventors build robots with astronaut's help

WHITEHORSE—Students at Ghùch Tlâ Community School in Carcross will receive a hands-on education in robotics this week with assistance from Canadian Space Agency astronaut David Saint-Jacques.

"This is a great opportunity for kids to get excited about technology and explore putting it into action," Minister of Economic Development Currie Dixon said. "It's this kind of innovation we want to encourage in our young people, who may one day become leaders in Yukon's growing technology sector."

Staff from Yukon's Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate have been building robots with students throughout the territory during community visits that engage with stakeholders on technology issues.

Carcross students will build their robots on May 14 with special guest Dr. Saint-Jacques following his presentation to the school and community. Prior to joining the Canadian Space Program in 2009, Saint-Jacques was a medical doctor and the co-chief of medicine at Inuulitsivik Health Centre in Puvirnituq, Quebec.

While building the robots students learn about simple machines and develop skills in formulating hypotheses, making observations, and communicating methods, results and conclusions. More than 300 students will participate during the community tour, each of whom will keep their robot.

The Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate was established last year within the Department of Economic Development. It is involved in a number of initiatives fostering technological innovation and the information and communications technology sector.

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