



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Young Yukoners recognized with Youth Achievement Awards**

WHITEHORSE—Six young Yukoners have been recognized through the Outstanding Youth Achievement Awards (OYAAs). Clara Reid, Emily Knickle, Rhyann MacKay and Kuduat Shorty of Whitehorse; Gavin Miller of Marsh Lake and Shyloh van Delft of Tagish were chosen this year for demonstrating exemplary citizenship in their communities.

"This award recognizes the fact that youth are our future, and this year's winners are all role models who lead by example," Commissioner Doug Phillips said. "I encourage all Yukoners to think about the contribution that youth make to their communities and to consider nominating a young person for this award next year."

Each recipient receives territory-wide recognition on an individual poster, along with a \$250 cash prize and a formal award presented by the Commissioner of Yukon. The Outstanding Youth Achievement Awards are a partnership between the Office of the Commissioner and the Yukon government's Youth Directorate.

"I congratulate the deserving recipients of the Outstanding Youth Achievement Awards who are recognized for their leadership and dedicated efforts toward making their community a better place to live," Premier and minister responsible for the Youth Directorate Darrell Pasloski said.

Outstanding Youth Achievement Award nominations can be made by anyone, and selections are made by the Yukon government's Youth Directorate. Emphasis is placed on recognizing youth who are involved in Yukon communities in constructive ways. This can include volunteering their time, fundraising, helping seniors and elders, or any activity that creates positive change.

### **Learn more:**

Visit the Outstanding Youth Achievement Awards web page.

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See backgrounder below for profiles of the OYAA recipients.

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## **2014 OYAA Recipients**

### **Clara Reid, Emily Knickle & Rhyann MacKay (Joint Award)**

Clara, Emily and Rhyann are recognized as role models and dedicated volunteers. As members of the Social Justice Club at Vanier Catholic School they have helped raise awareness of local and global organizations that work to end poverty, hunger and homelessness.

Clara is an advocate for the environment who was recently involved in the Yukon Envirothon and joined the Raven Recycling board as a youth member. She leads by example and takes risks in order to promote environmental issues. Clara also excels as a musician and passes along her love for music as a violin instructor.

Emily is a positive role model and is a member of the One Heart Club (Vanier's gay-straight alliance) and a previous student council secretary. She demonstrates strong leadership qualities by speaking passionately and encouraging younger students to make a difference. She was recently awarded the Senior Spirit Music Award by her peers.

Rhyann is a strong leader and a positive influence who is involved with several child and youth ministries at her church. She is a leader of the Quest Program for youth, and has assisted in planning weekend retreats for the program. In summer she is a counsellor at a three-week long camp for children.

### **Gavin Miller**

Gavin is being recognized for his ongoing contribution to the community of Marsh Lake and beyond. He is a dedicated volunteer firefighter who is passionate about ensuring community safety. Gavin has a sense of duty and responsibility and goes the extra mile to check on residents and their property. He has volunteered at Marsh Lake Community Center for many years and helps with events. He has also volunteered his time to assist with the annual Frostbite and Blue Feather music festivals in Whitehorse. Through his actions Gavin has shown great community spirit and exemplary youth leadership.

### **Kduat Shorty**

Kduat is being recognized for his ongoing contribution to The Boys and Girls Club of Whitehorse. For nearly a decade he has been a dedicated member of the club and a positive role model. Kduat has developed into a mentor to younger participants and constantly leads by example. He was a participant in the Young Riders program, encouraging the boys and girls to experience new things like riding down a challenging hill. He acts as a chaperone at the club by modeling excellent behaviour and encouraging younger youth.

### **Shyloh van Delft**

Shyloh is being recognized for her positive influence in the community of Tagish. From a young age she has been passionate about birding. She consistently leads interpretive bird walks and mentors younger Yukoners to encourage their interest in the outdoors. Shyloh demonstrates her passion by organizing funding events to support birding stations in Yukon. She also lends a hand at community events and is a positive mentor to other youth. Shyloh joined the Tagish Volunteer Fire Department at 16, and became a full-fledged firefighter at 18.

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