



FOR RELEASE  
December 19, 2014

## **Yukon Excellence Award criteria changing to increase award value, broaden scope**

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon Excellence Award program is being changed to broaden the variety of courses in which students are eligible for awards and to focus on final grades rather than final exams.

"Yukon students will benefit from changes to qualifications for Yukon Excellence Awards, that encompass more subject areas," Education Minister Elaine Taylor said.

Previously the Yukon Excellence Awards focused on exam performance in traditional areas for language arts, mathematics, social studies and science. The new criteria focuses on performance throughout a course and provides opportunities to earn awards in the areas of art, music, shop, home economics, outdoor education and others.

Awards in the amount of \$300 for each subject can be earned by students in Grades 10 to 12 who achieve a final overall mark of 80 per cent or higher in up to five mandatory courses and five elective courses. This applies to a maximum of four Grade 10 courses, three Grade 11 courses and three Grade 12 courses, for a maximum total amount of \$3000.

Changes to the award criteria have no impact on the Yukon Excellence Awards of students who have already graduated. Historically, students received awards when they achieved 80 per cent or higher during year-end Yukon Achievement Tests and B.C. Provincial Exams, regardless of their final mark.

The next two years will be an overlap period for students who wrote Yukon Achievement Tests in Grade 9. The final year that Grade 9 students wrote Yukon Achievement Tests was 2012, as a result of changes to the B.C. curriculum which Yukon follows. These students will be assessed under both the old and the new award criteria and will receive whichever award sum is higher, to the maximum of \$3,000.

Learn more: Yukon Excellence Awards

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See backgrounder.

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### Yukon Excellence Awards: Program changes at a glance

Program feature	Before 2013-14 academic year	2013-14 academic year, onward
Yukon Achievement Test (YAT)		
English YAT scores	\$200 for exceeding expectations in Math \$200 for exceeding expectations in Language Arts, Grade 9 YAT	No YAT scores included
French YAT scores	\$200 for exceeding expectations in French, Grade 9 YAT (French Immersion and FFL students only)	No YAT scores included
Courses by grade		
Level 10	Final exam mark of 80 per cent or higher in: Math 10: \$300 Science 10: \$300 English 10: \$300	Final course mark of 80 per cent or higher in: Math 10: \$300 Science 10: \$300 English 10: \$300 Plus 1 other final course mark of 80 per cent or higher: \$300
Level 11	Final exam mark of 80 per cent or higher in: Socials 11: \$400	Final course mark of 80 per cent or higher in: Socials 11: \$300 or equivalent Plus 2 other final course marks of 80 per cent or higher: \$300 each
Level 12	Final exam mark of 80 per cent or higher in: English 12: \$500	Final course mark of 80 per cent or higher in: English 12 or equivalent: \$300 Plus 2 other final course marks of 80 per cent or higher: \$300 each

langue Français (FL)	Final exam mark of 80 per cent or higher in: FL 10: \$300 FL 12: \$500	FL courses will be considered an equivalent to English courses. The higher grade will be considered.
Application process		
	Individuals apply and must provide proof of post-secondary expenditure in order to claim awards.	Individuals apply and must provide proof of post-secondary expenditure in order to claim awards.
Years to use YEAs after completion		
	10 years	10 years
Total awards		
	No absolute maximum**. Based only on BCPE exams.	Ten \$300 awards based on course marks for a maximum of \$3000 per student

\*\*Students could have written equivalent course B.C. provincial exams, such as English 10 or English First Peoples 10, and received YEA awards for both.

*News Release #14-299*



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