

FOR RELEASE
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Yukon museums and cultural centres receive boost to annual funding

WHITEHORSE—For the second year in a row, the Government of Yukon is increasing its investment in Yukon museums and First Nation cultural centres. In total, funding for museums and cultural centres will exceed \$1.8 million in 2016/17, subject to legislative approval.

"Yukon museums and cultural centres share our diverse stories and preserve our rich cultural traditions," Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor said. "This funding supports their ongoing operations and recognizes their significant contributions to protecting and interpreting the territory's unique heritage."

Annual funding to museums and cultural centres will increase from \$1.27 million in 2015/16 to \$1.39 million in 2016/17. The Special Projects Capital Assistance Program will increase from \$400,000 to \$453,000. Together this represents a funding increase of 20 per cent over the past two years.

The Yukon Transportation Museum is one in a network of institutions that protect, preserve and interpret Yukon's culture and heritage. In 2016/17 the museum will receive \$120,000 through the Yukon Museum Contribution Program.

"The Yukon Transportation Museum is delighted to be heading toward our second increase in operations and maintenance funding. In order to thrive, we do need to feed the fires and we have been doing some stoking," Yukon Transportation Museum executive director Janna Powell said. "We used last year's increase to fund winter opening hours at the museum and this has been a total success. The community is telling us just how interesting, welcoming, thought-provoking and fun the museum is."

The Kwanlin Dün Cultural Society will receive \$120,000 in 2016/17 through the Yukon Museum Contribution Program to assist with management and operations expenses for the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

"The Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre is a vibrant and integral part of Yukon's community. Our vision is to help revive, preserve and demonstrate the unique culture and heritage of the Kwanlin Dün First Nations people," Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre executive director Tracy McPhee said. "This type of funding supports programming and operations, providing Yukoners and visitors with memorable cultural learning experiences."

With the funding increase in 2016/17, the overall budget supporting museums and cultural centres will have grown by more than 300 per cent since 2002.

Museums and cultural centres are among the most popular tourist attractions in Yukon, welcoming more than 125,000 visitors annually.

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Learn more: Museums funding

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