

FOR RELEASE  
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## **Community Development Fund strengthens Yukon community organizations**

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon has provided \$80,801 through the Community Development Fund towards projects that contribute to community well-being.

"The seven groups that are sharing this funding all do great work that helps bring people together and improves our quality of life," Minister of Economic Development Stacey Hassard said. "Through these Tier I-level projects, the Community Development Fund has provided nearly 700 hours of employment to Yukoners."

The Centre for Human Wildlife Conflict Solutions has been awarded \$17,650 to communicate their bear hazard assessment through public presentations and website updates, and to implement mitigation strategies identified in the assessment.

"The Community Development Fund has been instrumental in helping our organization reach out to the community and to strengthen our mandate," Centre for Human Wildlife Conflict Solutions program coordinator Heather Ashton said. "This year, with financial support from the Community Development Fund we will increase board capacity, develop more effective outreach tools and activities and engage other organizations in direct action towards improving human-bear relationships within Whitehorse city limits. Look for us at [www.wildwise.ca](http://www.wildwise.ca)."

The Gwaandak Theatre Society was provided with \$14,024 to implement its most recent marketing strategy, including developing marketing materials and deepening relationships with First Nations and cultural organizations around the territory.

"This is Gwaandak Theatre's 15th anniversary season of sharing Indigenous and northern theatre stories," Gwaandak Theatre managing artistic director Patti Flather said. "This support will help us to create celebration events in three Yukon communities, deepen our relationships with First Nations and cultural groups, and enhance our marketing to reach more Yukoners."

Learn More: Community Development Fund

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### **See backgrounder for a full list of recipients.**

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### **Community Development Fund Tier I October 15, 2015 intake approved projects**

**Centre for Human Wildlife Conflict Solutions** – \$17,650: The project will communicate recommendations of the bear hazard assessment through public presentations and through the updated website, and will seek support for implementing mitigation strategies identified in the assessment. The project will create 148 hours of work for three contractors. Contact: Heather Ashthorn, 867-335-5212.

**Community Choir of Whitehorse Society** – \$4,000: The project will develop a strategic plan to guide the organization's activities over the next three to five years. The project will create 30 hours of employment for one person. Contact: Jan Horton, 867-667-6057.

**Yukon Freestyle Ski Association** – \$20,000: To purchase an airbag to use in conjunction with two indoor trampolines to provide a safe landing for athletes. Contact: Lynda Harlow, 867-393-3369.

**Yukon Literacy Coalition** – \$5,227: To assist with undertaking the Northern Lights Writers' Conference, a two-day conference that will provide opportunities for Yukoners to engage in readings, presentations and writing workshops from three Canadian writers. The project will create 100 hours of employment for one person. Contact: Colleen Segriff, 867-668-6535.

**Cross Country Yukon** – \$19,900: To complete an engineering design and Class B cost estimate to pave 5 km of existing trails at the Mt. McIntyre Recreation Centre; and to hire a project manager to coordinate all project activities, liaise with stakeholders and finalize a trail paving financing plan and a trail management and maintenance plan. The project will create 57 hours of employment for one project manager. Contact: Amanda Deuling, 867-332-4734.

**Gwaandak Theatre Society** – \$14,024: Building on the momentum of its 15th anniversary season, Gwaandak Theatre will

implement tactics identified in its most recent marketing strategy: developing marketing materials, deepening relationships with First Nations and cultural organizations around the territory, and creating three 15th anniversary special events. The project will create 360 hours of work for three contractors and two part-time people. Contact: Marjolène Gauthier, 867-393-2676.

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