

FOR RELEASE
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Eight crime prevention, victim services initiatives awarded funding

WHITEHORSE—The Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust is providing funding totalling \$140,737 to eight community-led projects with a crime prevention or services for victims focus.

"The Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust continues to be an important avenue for community groups, First Nations and municipalities to receive funding for innovative projects that improve outcomes for Yukon victims of crime and enhance community safety," Minister of Justice Brad Cathers said. "Each of the groups receiving this funding is making valuable contributions to crime prevention and services for victims at the community level."

This funding cycle's recipients include: the Boys and Girls Club of Yukon, Help and Hope for Families, the Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the Village of Teslin, Whitehorse Independent Theatre, the Yukon Community Crime Stoppers Association and the Yukon Status of Women Council.

The Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust awards funds twice a year for eligible projects that are intended to: reduce crime; prevent violence against women and children; address the root causes of crime; provide services and information to victims of crime; or provide information about crime prevention and victimization.

"*My Brain is Plastic* is a show about a girl, her troubles, neuroplasticity and hope and is being presented at the Magnetic North Theatre Festival," writer/director Arlin McFarlane said. "Funding from the Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust has enabled Whitehorse Independent Theatre to offer an additional show at no cost to those members of the community for whom the admission fee is a barrier. It has enabled us to reach out to that community and we are very happy to have had support for the outreach component of this play."

The fund has supported Yukon community groups since 1998. Proposals are reviewed by the Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Board of Trustees. Board members include community members and representatives from the Yukon government, First Nations, women's organizations and the RCMP.

The next application deadline is 4:30 p.m., August 16.

Learn more:

Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust: www.crimepreventionfundyukon.ca or call 867-667-8746 (toll free 1-800-661-0408, extension 8746).

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See backgrounder for program descriptions.

Contact:

Dan Macdonald
Cabinet Communications
867-393-6470
dan.macdonald@gov.yk.ca

Tyler Plaunt
Communications, Justice
867-667-3221
tyler.plaunt@gov.yk.ca

Backgrounder – CPVSTF Spring 2016 Funding Recipients

Boys and Girls Club Yukon - \$10,725 for Summer Empathy.

A two-day a week project for youth consisting of a day of volunteering at the food bank, the animal shelter or picking up garbage, with the other day earmarked for educational workshops and presentations on topics such as human rights, consent, anti-bullying, safe partying, reduction of self-harm and alcohol and drugs. Each month there will be a debrief day to talk about experiences the youth are going through with logs to be kept of these discussions.

Help and Hope for Families - \$19,068 for their Hope's Haven project.

A program for women who are exiting alcohol or drug treatment; participants will be able to stay at Help and Hope second stage housing for a month, with an option to stay longer. They will attend 12-step and Smart Recovery meetings, one-on-one counselling, shop for and prepare meals together, have weekly workshops with speakers on a variety of relevant topics, and participate in arts, crafts and beading. They will also be encouraged to take courses at Yukon College.

Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon - \$6000 for their Dawson City Literacy Camp.

A two week summer day camp for children featuring literacy tutoring and wilderness skills. During the mornings, children

read with the camp coordinator and choose to continue reading on their own or to participate in woodworking or art activities. In the afternoons various outdoor activities take place, such as canoeing, rafting and building willow branch shelters. Parents are invited to the last day of camp to hear their children read.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in - \$15,680 for Nts'a'Tr'ùhùde (Our Way of Life): Breaking the silence on violence against women.

Program includes:

- Delivery of five targeted sexualized violence workshops for service providers and youth. Topics include myths, consent, crisis intervention, digital harassment and healthy sexuality.
- A girls empowerment group to be held over the summer months with presentations on topics of exploring gender, healthy dating and relationships, healthy sexuality, harm reduction and risky behaviours, equality, who are you, anger and empowerment, suicide awareness and prevention, find your dreams and a movie night.
- Promoting intergenerational involvement between women and girls through three evening sessions to learn basket weaving and two weekend workshops. The first will involve harvesting, story-telling and discussion about rites of passage, the second will teach about preparation of medicinal teas and salves.

Yukon Community Crime Stoppers Association - \$5000 for establishing a Tip reward fund.

Funding will go towards establishing a tips reward fund for the new Yukon Community Crime Stoppers Association. The association's membership is completing training on necessary systems and processes and is also completing work to implement the tips line and association website.

Village of Teslin - \$5000 for Born to Fly.

A bi-weekly adventure based club for girls will include: visiting the Wildlife Preserve, overnight camping, outdoor survival skills, life skills/body care, swimming, boating and canoeing. Workshop discussions will take place on topics such as self-esteem, relationships, saying no to drugs and alcohol, sexual health, social media safety, family life and how to be self-sufficient.

Whitehorse Independent Theatre - \$7200 for *My Brain is Plastic*.

Funding will go towards a special performance of the play, *My Brain is Plastic*, to a target audience with the goal of sparking discussion about victimization, trauma, addictions and self-harming behavior. A community engagement coordinator will seek out the audience and create rapport and comfort. There will be no entrance fee and food will be provided. Immediately after the show, there will be a talk-back/feedback engagement session with mental health professionals and addictions counsellors.

Yukon Status of Women Council - \$72,064 for Women and Girls: Sex Work and Trafficking in the Yukon.

Funding is for a two and a half year project that will:

- conduct a baseline needs assessment and analyze findings on the extent, conditions, etc. of the sex industry and trafficking of women and girls in Yukon; and
- facilitate a way to address this issue between decision makers, women who are involved, and service providers in order to improve policies and programs, provide services and reduce violence.

Steps include: establishing a working group; conducting a needs assessment; preparing a report on the findings; identifying actions that could be taken; implementing actions; assessing the impact of changes and adjusting as needed; and evaluation and knowledge transition.

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