

FOR RELEASE
May 27, 2016

Kwanlin Dün First Nation to receive funding for community safety program

Joint news release

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon is providing more than \$1.4 million in funding over three years for a Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) Community Safety Liaison Officer pilot program.

"This funding will serve to increase access and capacity for Kwanlin Dün First Nation justice services," Premier Darrell Pasloski said. "The Government of Yukon is pleased to support the Kwanlin Dün First Nation Community Safety Liaison Officer program and expand on the spirit of partnership that exists between our two governments in developing responses to social justice issues."

The Community Safety Liaison Officer program is proposing to build KDFN capacity in providing accessible, sustainable and culturally-relevant justice services while promoting community accountability, responsibility and respect for the law.

"This program is intended to directly support crime prevention and reduction strategies as a liaison between Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Yukon RCMP, the City of Whitehorse Bylaw Department and the Yukon government's Safer Communities and Neighborhoods Unit," Minister of Justice Brad Cathers said. "We hope to see stronger community relationships developed with police and other partners, as well as an increased sense of security and support within the Kwanlin Dün First Nation community."

The program's funding will go towards salary and benefits for a KDFN justice services coordinator, a community safety coordinator and community safety liaison officers, as well as program and start-up and maintenance costs.

"Kwanlin Dün citizens have told Council that community safety and security is a continued priority to improve their lived and experienced safety and well-being," Kwanlin Dün First Nation Chief Doris Bill said. "Kwanlin Dün First Nation has taken a holistic approach through its Community Safety and Well-being Initiative, which includes spiritual, emotional, mental and physical essentials. Today's announcement recognizes the partnerships needed to achieve our goals and the foundational importance of the Community Safety Liaison project for Kwanlin Dün First Nation to continue on the road to wellness."

The initial three years of funding will provide for sufficient program implementation, continuity of service considerations and program evaluation.

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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

Marie-Louise Boylan
Communications, Kwanlin Dün First Nation
867-633-7835
marie-louise.boyland@kdfn.net

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