

FOR RELEASE  
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## **Watson Lake students receive introduction to trades training**

*Released in partnership with Yukon College.*

WATSON LAKE—Eight Watson Lake Secondary School students and four adult learners are gaining hands-on experience in carpentry, plumbing, electrical, small engine repair and heavy duty mechanic trades through Yukon College's Skills Exploration program.

"The trades are a great career path for many students," Minister of Education Doug Graham said. "The Skills Exploration program can be a first step for students to begin a successful career in a trade that interests them."

The 12 students are part of the 20-week Skills Exploration program at Yukon College's Watson Lake campus. The students will receive a basic introduction to each trade in two-week cycles and will also gain credentials in basic workplace safety, such as WHMIS, fall protection, transportation of dangerous goods and rigging and hoisting.

"The Skills Exploration program provides a strong and supportive entry-point into trades training for dual-credit and adult students," Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining at Yukon College executive director Shelagh Rowles said. "Yukon College is pleased to partner with the Department of Education and Watson Lake Secondary School to expand education and training opportunities in Watson Lake."

The program is aimed at students who wish to explore trades options but are unsure about which area best suits their capabilities and interest. Upon completion students can apply to continue onto the college's 18 to 20-week pre-apprentice trades programs in the specialization they have chosen.

"This program is an exciting opportunity for Watson Lake Secondary School students to explore potential career opportunities in the trades," Watson Lake Secondary School principal Lionel Brideson said. "I would like to thank Yukon College and the Department of Education for bringing this unique program to Watson Lake."

The Skills Exploration program runs from February 1 to June 17 in Watson Lake. Training is taking place at the Yukon College Watson Lake campus, Watson Lake Secondary School and a Yukon College mobile trades training trailer.

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