

FOR RELEASE
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School program will enhance mental health services in Ross River and Faro

WHITEHORSE—A mental wellness program now being offered by Many Rivers Counselling Services will enhance mental health services available to Ross River and Faro residents.

Beginning in April, Many Rivers will visit schools in Faro and Ross River every second week for three months to deliver the Flourishing and the Science of Happiness program. Many Rivers will also be available to provide counselling and support services to youth and adults in both communities.

"Close working relationships with our partners both inside and outside government provide us with the agility and the ability to respond to the needs of Yukon students and communities," Minister of Education Doug Graham said. "Students' mental health is an important factor in their success in school and we look forward to Many Rivers working with these schools and their communities on mental wellness."

Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Nixon said: "Access to additional services, in addition to the monthly visits of a mental health nurse and the bi-weekly visits of a support worker, provides a significant enhancement in services to that community and responds to community requests."

The Flourishing program is a three-month program and once complete, Many Rivers will work with the departments of Health and Social Services and Education to assess the potential ongoing community need for additional services.

"This government is focused on ensuring the health and prosperity of our children and youth. Providing schools with tools for mental health is a good path to start students on," Nixon added.

Many Rivers executive director Brent Ramsay said: "Many Rivers is excited to deliver the Flourishing program and begin offering services into the communities of Ross River and Faro. At the same time, this project helps us to learn more about the mental health needs in those communities, and how we might assist into the future."

Learn more:

Flourishing and the Science of Happiness program: www.yukonwellness.ca/flourishing

Mental health support and services: www.hss.gov.yk.ca/mental_health

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