

FOR RELEASE
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Yukon government supports young artists to develop artistic and business skills

WHITEHORSE—The Northern Cultural Expressions Society is receiving funding to deliver programs that provide opportunities for at-risk youth to develop a blend of life, artistic and entrepreneurial skills. The Yukon government will provide \$345,000 annually for three years.

"Young people who participate in Northern Cultural Expression Society programs are making positive contributions to their families, their communities and to Yukon's cultural legacy," Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor said. "We are proud to support these talented emerging artists who are learning valuable skills while creating original art works that celebrate and enhance Yukon First Nations culture and heritage."

The Northern Cultural Expressions Society, formerly the Sundog Carving Program, has been operating since 2004. The society uses art as the foundation to provide opportunities for young people to develop artistic and business skills, and to build self-reliance and self-confidence.

"We are grateful for the Yukon government's ongoing support, and its belief in the value of our programs and their positive impact in the community and on our youth," Northern Cultural Expressions Society president Krista Reid said. "The passion of our team is truly an inspiration as they work with our young people to reclaim a presence in the world of art, and at the same time reconnect to their cultures through the expression of traditional arts. Again gunałchîsh to the amazing ongoing support provided to our young artists."

"To me this new agreement is the result of the endless hours of dedication put in by the crew at Northern Cultural Expressions Society," carving and education programs supervisor Colin Teramura said. "We have seen how our programming has empowered youth, we have seen incredible transformations in our studio, in classrooms, in communities and I'm just really excited that we can continue that work."

Many Northern Cultural Expressions Society participants take part in events such as the Adäka Cultural Festival and gallery exhibits in Yukon and beyond. Northern Cultural Expressions Society artists have had art work selected for the Yukon Permanent Art Collection and for public commissions including the Whitehorse Airport expansion and the Yukon Legislative Assembly. They have also created large group works, including a dugout canoe and the Healing Totem which is a now a landmark on the Whitehorse waterfront wharf.

Learn more:
Northern Cultural Expressions Society

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See photo.

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