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FOR RELEASE #11-007

January 18, 2011

Advanced Artist Award supports literary, visual and performing arts

WHITEHORSE—Yukon government's Advanced Artist Award will provide \$39,925 toward ten projects developed by literary, visual and performing artists.

"The Yukon government is proud to continue its support to Yukon artists practising at a senior level," Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor said. "By supporting these talented individuals in their creative endeavors, we help them broaden their artistic circle of influence which ultimately contributes to Yukon's social, cultural and economic well-being."

This round, five of the ten projects supported through the Advanced Artist Award are literary.

Projects include funding for Sharon Shorty's new work on a body of traditional Tlingit and Northern Tutchone stories for a compilation audio CD, Patricia Robertson's work on a third draft of her fantasy novel for young adults, Jerome Stueart's re-writing of a short story entitled *One Nation Under Gods* into a larger novel format, and Michael Reynold's first draft of a book-length poem on the lore surrounding Tom Thompson, a 20th Century Canadian artist.

Claire Eamer, author of the children's books *Super Crocs & Monster Wings*, and *Spiked Scorpions & Walking Whales* is receiving funding to complete a first draft on a young adult adventure novel set in Yukon.

"The Advanced Artist Award will give me time to complete the novel, and have the opportunity to workshop and market it at one of the most important events in North American children's publishing," Eamer said. "I hope this will be a major step in my writing career and I'm extremely grateful for the assistance and the opportunity."

Lonnie Powell, musician, is receiving funding to attend a master class with mentor and jazz drumming master, Jim Blackley, world renowned drum instructor.

"The funding will enhance my musical scope and skills, which in turn will reflect directly to my musical community, audiences, and more importantly my future young drum students," Powell said. "I feel blessed to be living in a community that not only supports local artists but actually recognizes and encourages growth and development at all levels and ages. I am honoured to be acknowledged by my artistic peers, and community, in this fashion."

The Advanced Artist Award program is funded by Lotteries Yukon and is administered by the Tourism and Culture department. Submissions are adjudicated by a jury of professional artists.

The next intake for the Advanced Artist Award is April 1, 2011. Artists interested in applying are encouraged to contact the fund administrator at 667-8789 or toll-free from the communities at 1-800-661-0408, extension 8789.

For more information about the Advanced Artist Award visit www.tc.gov.yk.ca.

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See backgrounder below.

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Background:**Advanced Artist Award: October 1, 2010 recipients**

NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ARTISTIC CATEGORY	AMOUNT FUNDED
Claire Eamer	Complete draft manuscript of young adult adventure novel and present it at Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators conference January 2011, New York.	literary	\$5,000.00
Cynthia Hunt	Focus full-time on watercolours and oils to create new body of work.	visual	2,500.00
Barry "Jack" Jenkins	Attend workshops, rehearsals and a public reading of his play <i>Heather's String Theory</i> at Foundry Theatre and to further develop the work with director Aynsley Moorhouse.	literary	2,475.00
Lonnie Powell	Master class with mentor and jazz drumming master, Jim Blackley.	performing	5,000.00
Michael Reynolds	Complete first draft of a book-length poem on the lore surrounding Tom Thompson.	literary	5,000.00
Patricia Robertson	Complete third draft of young-adult fantasy novel for review by interested publisher.	literary	4,950.00
Sharon Shorty	Self-directed Residency at Banff Centre to write, collect and rehearse traditional story-telling for upcoming CD creation.	performing	5,000.00
Jerome	Complete five chapters of a	literary	5,000.00

Stueart	novel adapted from a short story, for review by interested publisher.		
Joseph Tisiga	Create new body of paintings, drawings, and sculpture for solos exhibition at the ODD Gallery, Dawson City.	visual	2,500.00
Jordy Walker	Compose and record demos of compositions for guitar and accompaniment.	performing	2,500.00
Total			\$39,925.00

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