



Government of Yukon

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FOR RELEASE #11-142
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Department of Education announces further funding for Bridges program

WHITEHORSE—Continued funding for the Bridges program was announced by Education Minister Patrick Rouble, reinforcing the Yukon government's support for the popular employment program run by Challenge Community Vocational Alternatives.

"Bridges Café is a Whitehorse success story that provides both training and a positive work environment for people with cognitive disabilities," Minister Rouble said. "Challenge Community Vocational Alternatives is running an excellent program for its clients while providing the community with unique, gourmet dining options at Shipyards Park."

Bridges Café, the experiential employment training arm of the Bridges program, opened in September 2010. Challenge clients who participate in the program receive work-specific training which provides them with practical culinary arts and customer service skills.

"The partnerships, community liaison, social inclusion, and success stories that have grown as a result of Advanced Education's commitment to the Bridges program is remarkable," Rick Goodfellow Executive Director of Challenge Community Vocational Alternatives said. "We're very happy with the results of this program."

The current agreement ensures funding for the Bridges program through May 2012. Since September of last year, \$327,242 in funding has been committed to the program. Funding comes from the Department of Education's Labour Market Agreement and is guided by the Labour Market Framework.

One of the priorities of the Labour Market Framework for Yukon is to address the barriers faced by underrepresented groups in the labour market. Challenge addresses those barriers by providing training and work experience targeted to the needs of persons with disabilities, youth and First Nations.

For more information about Challenge Community Vocational Alternatives, visit their [website](#).

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