



Government of Yukon

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FOR RELEASE #11-046
 March 28, 2011

Prevention of violence against Aboriginal women funding announced

WHITEHORSE—Six organizations will share \$200,000 over the next two years to help prevent violence against Aboriginal women, the Minister responsible for Women's Directorate Marian C. Horne announced today.

"These projects, designed and delivered by Aboriginal women, will assist them in developing culturally sensitive approaches that meaningfully address the needs of each unique community," Horne said.

The Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund has an annual spring call for proposals and awards \$200,000 yearly to support projects, programs and events designed and developed by Aboriginal women and their communities.

The following groups each received \$25,000 for 2011-12:

- Kwanlin Dün First Nation
- Liard Aboriginal Women's Society
- Northern Cultural Expressions Society
- Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle

The following groups each received \$50,000 for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 fiscal years:

- Skookum Jim Friendship Centre
- Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council

The Women's Directorate has contributed approximately \$1.1 million towards projects since the fund's inception in 2004. In 2009, the fund's annual allocation doubled to \$200,000.

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See backgrounder below.
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RECIPIENTS OF 2011-12 PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE FUND

Young Women Speaking Out - Kwanlin Dün First Nation

This project seeks to address the relationship between violence and substance abuse, and is aimed at youth. This holistic therapeutic program helps strengthen the ways in which young

women can move toward a healthier lifestyle and prevent cycles of violence.
Contact: Alicia Vance or Carmen Gibbons 867-668-7289

Together for Justice on Language, Violence and Responsibility - Liard Aboriginal Women's Society

This one-year pilot project includes a series of workshops in Watson Lake, to be delivered by Dr. Allan Wade (Centre for Response-Based Practice, Victoria, BC). The workshops are designed to promote a dialogue and improve relationships between Kaska women, Help and Hope for Families and other government agencies in Watson Lake, women's organizations in Whitehorse, community members and the RCMP to address the serious abuse of women in Yukon communities and develop a plan of action together.

Contact: Ann Maje Raider 867-536-2097

Aboriginal Women's Carving Circle - Northern Cultural Expressions Society

This 10-week pilot project uses the traditional skill of carving to create a circle for dialogue about violence, life-skills, self-esteem development and empowerment, capacity development, and an introduction to business and marketing skills. The project is designed to train-the-trainers, and will be delivered by an Aboriginal woman master carver, who will instruct the program participants and act as a role model and mentor for the circle. At the end of the 10-week program, the carvings created by the circle will be displayed at an art show, which will be designed to specifically recognize the artwork of the project participants. Contact: Richard Provan 867-633-4186

Women of Wisdom (WOW) Project - Skookum Jim Friendship Centre

This two-year project will address violence against Aboriginal women through a series of bi-weekly workshops. The project uses a holistic model that works with women to address layers and root causes of violence against women. The WOW project will also include two weekend workshops each year, an annual summer paddling project, and an annual on-the-land retreat for participants. In addition, this project will participate in other community events that raise awareness about violence against women, such as the 12 Days to End Violence Against Women, Take Back the Night, International Women's Day, Women Abuse Prevention Month, Sexual Assault Prevention Month, and the October 4th Sisters in Spirit Vigil.

Contact: Michelle Kolla 867-633-7680

Reclaiming Our Aboriginal Roles (ROAR) Project - Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle

The ROAR project is based on traditional teachings: it will contain four module themes (consisting of eight workshops each) to identify barriers and challenges that prevent Aboriginal women from realizing their potential and reclaiming their traditional roles. The overall theme of the ROAR project is to understand the root causes of violence and learn how to move forward in a positive way. Each module has six sessions dealing with root concepts, one session devoted to Elder teachings about traditional matriarchal roles and the last session will be dedicated to facing and addressing barriers and challenges.

Contact: Connie Epp 867-668-2959

Yukon Sisters in Spirit: Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council

Research and public education campaign to support families and communities in raising awareness about missing and murdered Aboriginal women and violence against Aboriginal women. The first phase of this project began in 2010, and research and documentation of cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women is well underway. The second phase of this project is the development of a public awareness and education campaign, which includes the development of a book of memories, designed to honor the lives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women, and support their families and communities. The final phase of this project is the development of family gatherings to allow families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women to come together, share their experiences and offer support to each other. The family gathering will also include a traditional ceremony to honor the missing and murdered Aboriginal women and their families.

Contact: Courtney Wheelton 867-335-8557

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