



FOR RELEASE
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Second Ember Fire Academy a success

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon was pleased to contribute \$40,000 towards the operation of Ember Fire Academy, a week-long program designed to inspire women to join Yukon's fire service.

"Women currently represent almost a quarter of volunteer firefighters in Yukon," Minister of Community Services Currie Dixon said. "Ember Fire Academy aims to increase the representation of women in the fire service while supporting volunteerism in the territory."

The academy was launched in 2014, and ran from August 3 to 8 this year. The twelve participants, who ranged in age from 16 to 35, learned basic firefighting skills, including pump and ladder operations, vehicle extraction and the use of self-contained breathing apparatus.

"Ember Fire Academy inspires women to try a career that they may not have otherwise considered. As a mentorship experience, Ember Fire Academy also teaches valuable skills including leadership, professionalism, discipline and teamwork," Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate Elaine Taylor said. "We are proud to offer this opportunity to Yukon women at no charge to the participants."

The Ember Fire Academy chief this year was Kiara Adams, a career firefighter with Whitehorse Fire Department. Her teaching team includes deputy fire marshal Joyia Chakungal and Ursula Geisler, a volunteer firefighter with Golden Horn Fire Department.

"Ember Fire Academy promises to challenge and inspire its participants and is an opportunity for women to see what it takes to be a firefighter," Adams said. "Women have a lot to offer to the fire service, but have historically been underrepresented. We hope to reverse this trend by recruiting more female firefighters, be it a career in firefighting or volunteering."

Ember Fire Academy was supported this year by contributions of approximately \$35,000 from the Department of Community Services and \$5,000 from the Women's Directorate.

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