



FOR RELEASE

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## **Five projects share \$200,000 to help prevent violence against Aboriginal women**

WHITEHORSE—Five Yukon projects that address the issue of violence against Aboriginal women are sharing \$200,000 in funding from the Government of Yukon this year.

Canada's Aboriginal women experience disproportionate levels of violence," Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate Elaine Taylor said. "The Yukon government recognizes the severity of this problem and supports culturally relevant initiatives designed and developed by and for Aboriginal women as a key strategy in taking collective action on this issue."

The projects will be funded by the 2015/16 Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund, which has provided some \$1.9 million for 70 projects since it was established in 2004.

The five projects that have received funding are A Safe Place (Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre), Building a Circle of Response-Based Practice (Liard Aboriginal Women's Society), Prevention of Violence Against Women in Pelly Crossing (Selkirk First Nation), Walking With Our Sisters Community Programming (Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre) and Women of Wisdom (Skookum Jim Friendship Centre).

"We are excited to build on the success of our Together for Justice community safety initiative that we are working on with the Watson Lake RCMP and the important work that we have done as a community in improving relationships and front line responses to violence against Aboriginal women," Liard Aboriginal Women's Society executive director Ann Maje Raider said. "This funding will allow us to deepen our connections within our community and provide support and response-based approaches training to community front line workers, resulting in improved programs and services for Aboriginal women."

These initiatives further support the work being undertaken by Aboriginal women's organizations to address priorities of Aboriginal women with additional funding from the Yukon government.

**Learn more:** Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund

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**See backgrounder below.**

Contact:

Elaine Schiman  
Cabinet Communications  
867-633-7961  
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

Joanna Lilley  
Communications, Women's Directorate

867-667-5341  
joanna.lilley@gov.yk.ca

## **Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund recipients in 2015/16**

### **Selkirk First Nation—Prevention of Violence Against Women in Pelly Crossing (\$50,000 for one year)**

This project in Pelly Crossing will involve community members in designing and delivering a community-based workshop on gender equality, preventing gender-based violence and creating a promotional and educational campaign. The project will be developed from a Yukon First Nation perspective and will enable community members and Selkirk First Nation staff to increase the community's capacity to respond to violence.

Contact Milly Johnson, 867-537-3331, extension 244

### **Skookum Jim Friendship Centre—Women of Wisdom (\$50,000 for two years)**

Women of Wisdom seeks to support Aboriginal women who are living with violence, or who have experienced some form of trauma, ranging from intimate partner violence and horizontal violence to culture loss. Through traditional teaching sessions and knowledge rooted in Aboriginal customs, women will be able to equip themselves with the tools they need to develop personal awareness and recognize individual worth. This project will host workshops on topics identified by participants as well as offering land-based weekend workshops.

Contact Teagan Lee, 867-633-7683

### **Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre—A Safe Place (\$50,000 for two years)**

A Safe Place is a pilot program offered jointly by the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, the Yukon Status of Women Council and the Council of Yukon First Nations. The project offers low-barrier, after-hours and weekend facilitated drop-in programming and a nutritious meal for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women. It targets marginalized women and their children who are experiencing precarious housing, food insecurity or mental ill health in Whitehorse. The skilled staff responds to participants' needs and provides referrals to services, support and safety.

Contact Hillary Aitken, 867-667-2693

### **Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre—Walking With Our Sisters Community Programming (\$25,000 for one year)**

The Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, in partnership with the Aboriginal women's community, is hosting a series of workshops and conversations to increase community dialogue about the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Yukon. These conversations are designed to engage the public and will take place before, during and after the Walking With Our Sisters exhibit that was on display at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre from April 11 to 25. The project will also offer support to families to participate in honouring their loved ones and attending community events. (As noted in an April 10 news release, this project is also receiving a further \$12,000 from the Government of Yukon – \$10,000 in Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summit 2 funding and \$2,000 to support a community feast.)

Contact Krista Reid, 867-456-5322

### **Liard Aboriginal Women's Society—Building a Circle of Response-Based Practice (\$25,000 for one year)**

Building a Circle of Response-Based Practice is a knowledge-sharing project intended to broaden awareness of response-based practice among front-line community agencies responding to the

issue of violence against women and related social justice matters. The project will offer three community workshops in Watson Lake focusing on understanding violence and approaches to violence from a response-based perspective.

Contact Ann Maje Raider, 867-536-2097

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