



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Five organizations share nearly \$600,000 in funding for major projects**

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon government has awarded nearly \$600,000 to five community organizations for projects that enhance tourism and culture initiatives.

"The Government of Yukon is pleased to announce its continued support of significant projects that provide economic benefits for Yukon communities," Minister of Economic Development Stacey Hassard said. "These projects will provide thousands of employment hours in the months ahead."

Among the recipients is Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, to support its bid to have the Tr'ondëk-Klondike area declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The First Nation will receive \$266,107 to further the development of a nomination dossier. The Department of Economic Development has been working closely with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency to support the designation process. UNESCO designation of the site has the potential to promote Yukon worldwide and increase tourism to the region.

"The community is rallying around the Tr'ondëk-Klondike UNESCO World Heritage site nomination, and this funding is critical to advancing the project. Having our region on the list of World Heritage sites will have a positive impact on the Yukon's economy and share our unique story with the world," Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Chief Roberta Joseph said.

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation will receive \$65,157 in funding towards the Van Tat Gwich'in Navigation Systems project, a research and mapping initiative that uncovers and details the intricate network of trails and water routes used by the Vuntut Gwitchin people in north Yukon. This funding will be used to create opportunities in employment, tourism and trapping by utilizing local knowledge to research, mark and clear traditional travel routes.

"This project will get our young people out on the land to learn our traditional routes and ways of travelling. We are hoping this project will also open up new areas of the traditional territory for trapping and encourage people to use the land more. Overall, this project will be a great benefit to our community," Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Chief Roger Kyikavichik said.

Through these five community projects, the Community Development Fund will provide over 11,000 hours of employment to about 55 people.

### **Learn more:**

Community Development Fund

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See list of recipients below.

Contact:

Elaine Schiman  
Cabinet Communications

867-633-7961  
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

Juanita Power  
Economic Development, Communications  
867-667-5907  
juanita.power@gov.yk.ca

**MacBride Museum Society** – \$69,600 – To interpret and exhibit Yukon's Telecom Pioneers in the Telegraph Office, a designated historic building in Whitehorse. The project will create approximately 1,555 hours of employment for six people. Contact: Patricia Cuning at 867-667-2709.

**Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in** – \$266,107– To prepare a nomination dossier for the Tr'ondëk-Klondike site that demonstrates the area has outstanding universal value, a component of the World Heritage nomination process. The project will create approximately 7,500 hours of employment for two full-time people and 25 to 30 part-time or short-term people. Contact: Paula Hassard at 867-993-2429.

**Council of Northern Economic Developers** – \$73,688 – To host the 2015 Economic Developers Association of Canada conference in Whitehorse. The project will create approximately 400 hours of employment for one person. Contact: Michael Pealow at 867-335-3350.

**Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club** – \$116,694 – To host the 2016 Canadian National Cross Country Ski Championships. The project will create approximately 696 hours of employment for four people. Contact: Claude Chabot at 867-333-0171

**Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation** – \$65,157– For the Van Tat Gwich'in Navigation Systems project, which will create opportunities in employment, tourism and trapping by utilizing local knowledge to research, mark and clear traditional travel routes in north Yukon. The project will create approximately 1,024 hours of employment for eight to 12 people. Contact: Megan Williams at 867-966-3261.

### **Community Development Fund**

The Community Development Fund offers three funding levels. Tier I funding is available for requests of up to \$20,000. Tier II funding is available for applicants requesting \$20,001 to \$75,000. Tier III funding is available for requests of over \$75,000. The next intake deadline is July 15 for Tier I applications.

Organizations are encouraged to contact the Community Development advisors well before the deadline to discuss their applications and to develop their project ideas.

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