



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Students participate in 24-hour fast to raise awareness of global development issues**

WHITEHORSE—Students from Vanier Catholic Secondary School recently participated in THINKfast, an interactive educational and fundraising effort that helps youth experience the challenges of poverty and injustice in the developing world.

"Congratulations to all the students and staff for their leadership and participation in this worthwhile cause," Minister of Education Doug Graham said. "This initiative is an excellent example of acting locally and thinking globally. Students that participated in this event are on the path to become future leaders at home and on the global stage."

A 24-hour fast is a key component of the THINKfast experience. During the fast, students participated in educational activities that focused on international development issues such as global hunger and food security, inequality, and social justice. At the end of the 24-hour period, students shared a meal which they helped to prepare.

To highlight how local action can benefit development in other countries, the students volunteered with Little Footprints, Big Steps, a local non-profit organization that provides support for children in Haiti who are victims of abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

"This was an excellent opportunity for our students to learn about global issues and to promote important ideals such as peace, justice and equality for all people," said Maria Trainor, religious education coordinator and teacher at Vanier Catholic Secondary School. "We are very pleased with the record level of student participation in this year's event – with approximately 85 people participating at our school."

The students raised more than \$2,500, which will be donated to Development and Peace, the official development organization of the Catholic Church. The organization supports peace, justice and development initiatives throughout the developing world. This year's campaign targeted awareness about food sovereignty for small-scale farmers in the developing world.

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