



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Yukon government partners with Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Carcross Tagish Management Corporation to create employment opportunities for Aboriginal youth**

WHITEHORSE—A pilot project between the Government of Yukon, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Carcross Tagish Management Corporation will help Aboriginal youth learn skilled trades and gain employment experience.

Aboriginal youth are constructing tiny buildings that will be used as retail trailers in the Carcross Commons, part of that community's broader tourism development goals. The program participants will hone their carpentry skills under the guidance and mentorship of local journeymen.

The Government of Yukon is pleased to contribute \$250,000 towards the capacity-building project.

"This project encourages greater participation by Aboriginal youth in the Yukon economy and helps address skills shortages in the territory," Premier Darrell Pasloski said. "Through the construction of the micro retail trailers, participants will gain marketable employment skills. We are pleased to support this exciting initiative."

The Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Carcross/Tagish First Nation governments have a shared priority of developing a private-sector economy that creates a sustainable flow of jobs and business opportunities for their communities, their citizens and the territory.

"Programs like these not only lay the groundwork for a future career, they help build experienced, employable citizens," Kwanlin Dün Chief Doris Bill said. "The opportunity to learn while earning a wage to support themselves, and their families, is invaluable. We thank the Yukon government for their support and commitment."

The program has been launched and participants are busy building the micro retail units for the 2015 tourism season.

"The creation of Carcross Commons has provided an economic jolt to the local economy," Carcross/Tagish First Nation Khà Shâde Héní Danny Cresswell said. "The development of the Commons not only supported existing local businesses, it was a launch pad for several new ones. With the addition of these new micro retail spaces, we will be able to add to the services offered to our more than 125,000 annual visitors and give more Yukon entrepreneurs a chance to follow their dreams."

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Contact:

Elaine Schiman  
Cabinet Communications

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

Eileen Duchesne  
Executive Assistant to the Chief  
Kwanlin Dün First Nation  
867-633-7826  
Eileen.Duchesne@kdfn.net

Justin Ferbey  
CEO, Carcross Tagish Management Corporation  
867-335-6676  
jjferbey@gmail.com

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