



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Advanced Artist Award supports individual artistic skills development**

WHITEHORSE—Ten Yukon artists are sharing \$41,950 from the Yukon government's Advanced Artist Award in support of career development through targeted educational pursuits.

"This government has long supported talented artists whose creativity is showcased through a variety of artistic disciplines," Tourism and Culture Minister Mike Nixon said. "The Advanced Artist Award helps established artists expand their knowledge, skills and creative vision."

Musician Dave Haddock will receive \$5,000 to participate in the *All the Way In* voice improvisation program. The three-part program is facilitated by international musician, composer and master teacher Rhiannon. Advanced singers will work together on personal and professional development.

"This support allows me to further develop my creative expression as an improviser and provides me with tools for teaching these skills back home in Whitehorse," Haddock said. "I look forward to reaching more people through singing."

Lena White, a traditional beadwork and sewing artist, is receiving \$2,500 to create a First Nation doll in full dance regalia and an octopus bag. Traditionally the bag was used to hold medicine but now holds ceremonial significance. Once completed, the doll will be displayed at art shows in Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

"First Nations culture is a way of life that has endless learning possibilities for life lessons," White said. "I am honoured to be able to work on this special doll that will be made from traditional materials of tanned moose hide, sinew and decorative beads."

The next intake for the Advanced Artist Award is April 1. Applicants are encouraged to consult with the fund administrator before applying. Visit [www.tc.gov.yk.ca](http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca) for more information or call 867-667-8789, toll-free 1-800-661-0408, extension 8789.

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See backgrounder below.

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Fall 2012 Advanced Artist Award recipients

| Name               | Project Description  | Artistic Category | Amount          |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| Dave Haddock       | To participate in Rhiannon's <i>All the Way In</i> year-long voice improvisation program that includes skill development, collaboration and performance enhancement.       | Performing        | \$5,000         |
| Sarah MacDougall   | To develop 10 new songs for a future full-length CD recording.   | Performing        | \$5,000         |
| Eva Holland        | To research and write a long-form non-fiction work about WWII-era Aleut internment camps and their survivors.  | Literary          | \$5,000         |
| Lulu Keating       | To rewrite the screenplay <i>Astrid's Vision</i> and work with Story Editor Ros Muir.  | Literary          | \$5,000         |
| Mitch Miyagawa     | To research and write a collection of literary non-fiction pieces on grief and sexuality for development into a book-length manuscript.                                    | Literary          | \$5,000         |
| Patricia Robertson | To complete the final draft of a juvenile fantasy novel titled <i>The Fires of Terrania</i> .  | Literary          | \$4,950         |
| Sonja Ahlers       | To write and illustrate a new book with the working title of <i>The Soul Selects Her Own Society</i> taken from an Emily Dickinson poem using collage, drawing and poetry. | Visual            | \$4,500         |
| Mellisa Kwok       | To complete a personal shadowing and training dance project in Toronto and Los Angeles.  | Performing        | \$2,500         |
| Lena White         | To create a First Nation ceremonial doll in full dance regalia, and an octopus bag.  | Visual            | \$2,500         |
| Rebekah Bell       | To learn and collaborate with Vancouver mentors and develop a body of work for a jazz recording.   | Performing        | \$2,500         |
| <b>Total</b>       |  |                   | <b>\$41,950</b> |

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