



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon-Canada bilateral agreement to fund Yukon sport programs

WHITEHORSE—At a signing ceremony held today in Whitehorse, Yukon, the Honourable Bal Gosal, Minister of State (Sport) and Yukon's Minister of Community Services, Elaine Taylor, renewed a three-year \$1.7 million bilateral agreement in support of sport programs in the territory aimed at increasing participation and access to sport.

"The Government of Canada is committed to working with provincial and territorial governments to advance important priorities for sport and physical activity in Canada and to make sport participation a part of the everyday lives of Canadians," Gosal said. "Today's funding announcement clearly demonstrates that we are committed to working together with all levels of government to achieve a common goal."

"The Yukon government is pleased to renew the bilateral agreement with Canada and to continue to support the efforts of local sport organizations and communities to increase participation and access to sport in the territory," Taylor said. "This funding directly benefits organizations like the Kids Recreation Fund, sport governing bodies, and community sport and physical activity leaders, all of whom provide programs that benefit participants, coaches, officials and young athletes."

The new bilateral agreement is an extension of a sport funding program that has been in place since 2003. Through the sport bilateral agreements, approximately \$4 million in shared federal and territorial sport funding has helped to improve athlete, coach and official development, and to increase participation by rural Aboriginal youth, female and underrepresented populations in the Yukon sport system.

The renewed agreement includes funding for three years in support of these goals. The commitment includes \$933,825 from Yukon and \$755,175 from Sport Canada.

For more information, visit www.community.gov.yk.ca.

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See backgrounder attached.

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Project List

Project 1—Tri-Territorial Initiatives

This initiative focuses on developing a coaching and officiating certification program to help raise the level of competition in sports such as Arctic sports, Dene games, Inuit wrestling and snowshoeing.

Project 2—Aboriginal Sport Development

Aboriginal sport development addresses the barriers facing Aboriginal and community youth in Yukon. It focuses on increasing the sport skill level of youth and leaders (train the trainers) who train youth in both mainstream sports and traditional sports (Arctic sports and Dene games).

Project 3—Coaching Enhancement

Provide funding to Yukon sport governing bodies for coach development initiatives.

Project 4—Athlete Development

Provide funding to Yukon sport governing bodies for athlete development initiatives such as physical literacy and fundamental movement skills activities, sport science services and access to competition.

Project 5—Rural/Aboriginal Participation Initiatives

Provide funding assistance for Yukon sport governing bodies to undertake sport development initiatives in Aboriginal and rural communities.

Project 6—Kids Recreation Fund

Provide underprivileged children with the opportunity to participate in sport or recreation by providing funds to the Kids Recreation Fund program administered by Sport Yukon. The fund works in partnership with the national KidSport program.

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