



FOR RELEASE
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Youth to join Yukon delegation at international climate change event

WHITEHORSE—For the first time ever, a youth ambassador will be part of the Yukon delegation to the United Nations conference on climate change, COP19, this fall.

"The Yukon government recognizes the importance of youth involvement in climate change issues," Environment Minister Currie Dixon said. "The youth ambassador will not only have the opportunity to deepen his knowledge of climate change issues but also share his experience with Yukoners of all ages both during and after the event."

Scott Bradley, 22, was selected as the Climate Change Youth Ambassador following a public selection process led by the government's Climate Change Secretariat. Now living in Dawson City, Bradley spent his summers at his uncle's farm on the Pelly River where he acquired hands on experience with the impacts of climate change. A welder by trade, he has also worked as a wildlife steward, general labourer and receptionist.

"I have a basic knowledge of climate change issues but am keen to learn more," Bradley said. "I am excited to get to know other youth with the same interests and know this will be an amazing experience and opportunity."

Bradley will join two Yukon government staff attending COP19 November 11 to 22 in Warsaw, Poland. Conferences of the Parties (COP) are annual summits which set out new directions in global climate protection. Up to 15,000 participants will take part in this opportunity to consolidate responses to climate change and showcase the many ambitious adaptation and mitigation initiatives being implemented around the world.

"The Government of Yukon recognizes that climate change poses opportunities, as well as serious challenges, to our unique quality of life," Dixon added. "By actively building capacity among Yukon youth, we hope to encourage action and innovation to help ensure our economy, quality of life and environment continue to thrive despite our changing climate."

Climate change impacts in Yukon include permafrost thaw, glacial melt, different bird migration patterns and the appearance of new species. While Canada's average winter temperature has increased by 3.6 C over the past 65 years, the Yukon average has increased by 5.5 C.

Through its \$1.152 million investment in the Climate Change Secretariat, the Yukon government is providing government-wide leadership and co-ordination on climate change. The *Climate Change Action Plan Progress Report* released last fall sets out in detail the wide range of actions and research underway to help Yukon adapt and respond effectively to climate change.

For more information about climate change in Yukon visit www.gov.yk.ca/climatechange.

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