



FOR RELEASE

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## **Funding announced for five violence prevention projects**

WHITEHORSE—Five projects are sharing \$200,000 through the Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund, Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate Elaine Taylor announced today.

"Supporting culturally relevant initiatives designed and developed by and for Aboriginal women is a key strategy in working to address disproportionate levels of violence experienced by Aboriginal women in Yukon," Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate Elaine Taylor said.

The Women's Directorate has contributed approximately \$1.7 million to the Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund since its creation in 2004. The fund was established to help address the disproportionate level of violence experienced by Aboriginal women in Yukon.

"Each of these projects utilizes innovative approaches, including the creation of a community response team to engage young Aboriginal women in cultural activities, teachings and violence-prevention programming," Taylor added.

The following groups will receive one year of funding for 2014/15:

- Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle \$25,000
- Vuntut Gwitchin Government \$25,000

The following groups will receive two years of funding for 2014/15 and 2015/16:

- Whitehorse Food Bank Society \$50,000
- Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation \$50,000
- Northern Cultural Expressions Society \$50,000

"The community of Old Crow is extremely grateful for this funding that will help us establish a community response team," said MLA for Vuntut Gwitchin Darius Elias. "This will provide training related to crisis response, violence and prevention, enabling an immediate response to critical incidents within our community. This is particularly important in remote locations like ours."

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See backgrounder below.

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## **Backgrounder – Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund, 2014 recipients**

### **Sally and Sisters - Whitehorse Food Bank Society \$50,000**

Two-year funding will enable the society to continue to provide a hot lunch twice a week to Aboriginal women and their children in a safe and sober environment at the Food Bank. The project will also create a support network and provide a non-threatening space for vulnerable Aboriginal women to seek referrals to services and programs.

Contact: Stephen Dunbar-Edge – 393-2265

### **Recovering Northern Tutchone Family Traditions – Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation \$50,000**

This two-year project will provide opportunities for community members to explore, document and understand traditional family structures, names, clans, and traditional male and female roles and responsibilities. The project is intended to increase understanding of *doòli* (traditional laws and practices) in Northern Tutchone communities and provide opportunities to explore precontact family and clan relationships within the community.

Contact: Viola Mullett – 863-5576

### **Empowerment Ensembles – Northern Cultural Expressions Society \$50,000**

This two-year project will engage young Aboriginal women in cultural activities, teachings, and violence prevention programming while exploring traditional skills such as sewing, weaving and carving. Participants will also learn about traditional regalia and developing healthy relationships. The project will also improve the capacity of NCES staff in providing support to victims of violence.

Contact: Naomi Crey – 633-4186

### **Finding Our Faces – Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle \$25,000**

This one-year project is intended to continue to increase awareness about residential schools in Whitehorse. Former students of the Whitehorse Baptist Mission School will be invited to workshops to share stories and review historical photographs and documents, in order to identify the students in the photographs as part of an effort to publish a photo album.

Contact: Shadelle Chambers – 668-7532

### **Community Response Team – Vuntut Gwitchin Government \$25,000**

By creating partnerships between existing agencies – such as the RCMP, the nursing station, Vuntut Gwitchin departments and the school – this one-year project will establish a trained and active crisis response team in Old Crow. The team will receive interagency training on topics related to crisis response, focusing specifically on violence and prevention. This project will enable a community response team to provide an immediate response to critical incidents in the community.

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