



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Sport pilot program launched at F.H. Collins Secondary School**

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon, in partnership with Sport Yukon, has launched a pilot project at F.H. Collins Secondary School geared toward students who are motivated to pursue both sport and academics, Education Minister Elaine Taylor announced today.

"This unique partnership combines sport and academics to promote physical health and increased student success in both athletics and academic study," Taylor said. "It is an approach that has been shown to improve student attendance and enhance life skills development and can be a great help to students pursuing post-secondary scholarships."

The program is based on the Canadian Sport School model used in British Columbia. It emphasizes mastering fundamental movement skills and overall physical development in students, whether they already consider themselves athletes or whether they are simply interested in enhancing their physical fitness.

Students will spend half of each day focusing on sport training and half on academics. The program is structured to allow students to participate while still meeting requirements for mandatory academic courses. The sport training curriculum will be supplemented with guest trainers and speakers on a variety of fitness and nutrition topics aimed at improving physical literacy.

F.H. Collins Secondary School is hosting this program as a supplement to its normal curriculum. The Education department is supporting the pilot by helping with program development and evaluation and contributing school physical education resources, equipment, supplies and costs for facility rentals.

Additional contributions and resources from the Economic Development and Community Services departments, as well as Sport Yukon, will also enhance the core sport pilot program.

"We are excited about this new option for young athletes," Minister of Community Services Brad Cathers said. "This pilot program will provide an opportunity for students to receive training that increases their endurance, strength and flexibility, which will allow them to perform even better in their chosen sports."

As part of the overall program, Sport Yukon will make physical literacy awareness and education available to schools throughout Yukon.

"Sport Yukon, along with our member sport organizations, is pleased to have played a role in the advocacy and support for the pilot sport program starting this September," Sport Yukon executive director Tracey Bilsky said. "We will continue to support this initiative, knowing it will create healthier individuals and stronger athletes for territorial sport organizations."

Athletic development, attendance and academic progress will be monitored during the year to assess the program's value.

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