



Government of Yukon

Government of Yukon » April 2010 » News Release #10-062

Newsroom

Latest news releases

News by theme

News by department

- Community Services
- Economic Development
- Education
- Energy, Mines and Resources
- Environment
- Executive Council Office
- Finance
- French Language Services Directorate
- Health and Social Services
- Highways and Public Works
- Justice
- Public Service Commission
- Tourism and Culture
- Women's Directorate

News by corporations

- Yukon Development Corporation
- Yukon Energy Corporation
- Yukon Housing Corporation
- Yukon Liquor Corporation
- Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board

Joint news releases

Premier's News

News by date

2017 news releases

- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December

News archive



NEWS *release*

FOR RELEASE #10-062

April 13, 2010

Northern Strategy Trust funding agreement to advance First Nation languages

WHITEHORSE – The Government of Yukon and Kluane First Nation, in cooperation with the Self-Government Secretariat of the Council of Yukon First Nations, signed an agreement last week that will provide one-time financial assistance of \$2.5 million for a project entitled Walking Together to Revitalize and Recognize Yukon First Nation Languages.

"This funding is a significant contribution to help preserve and maintain Aboriginal languages in Yukon," Premier Fentie said. "This project will establish new programs and build expertise within the communities."

For the final intake of the Northern Strategy Trust Fund, \$16 million was available for projects throughout Yukon. One of the key priority areas identified by Yukon First Nations for the \$4 million available for their projects was a revitalization of Yukon First Nation languages.

"This initiative will provide another crucial opportunity for all Yukon First Nations to work collaboratively with a broad range of stakeholders to design efficient and effective strategies, curriculums and models that will bring a renewed focus and breathe new life into the vitally important areas of language and culture," Self-Government Secretariat director Pauline Frost said.

This language initiative was identified and moved forward as a priority at a meeting with all Yukon First Nation leadership and approved at the recent Yukon Forum. The Self-Government Secretariat will manage the initiative with the Kluane First Nation as the proponent. The project will involve all Yukon First Nation language groups, First Nation governments as well as a range of stakeholders in language areas.

"The \$40 million Northern Strategy Trust Fund has facilitated joint partnerships between First Nations and Yukon government and has led to projects with long-term benefits, such as Walking Together to Revitalize and Recognize Yukon First Nations Languages," Fentie added.

-30-

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