



## Government of Yukon

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FOR RELEASE #10-001

January 6, 2010

### Youth starting new year with new jobs

WHITEHORSE – Advanced Education has helped create 18 new jobs for Whitehorse youth in a pilot job experience program, Education Minister Patrick Rouble announced today.

"The Youth Employment Program will create Yukon opportunities for Yukon youth, and it reflects our work to enhance transitions between those with varying levels of education and training, and the world of work," Rouble said. "By providing employers with a wage subsidy to hire youth for up to five months, we are encouraging them to invest in youth as they seek personnel to meet their business needs."

Advanced Education branch will deliver the Youth Employment Program, in which employers will receive a wage subsidy of up to 90 per cent, to a maximum of \$12 per hour, to offer workplace training for youth between 18 and 25 years of age. A total of 13 employers will receive support.

While some employers are still beginning their recruitment, youth are already at work in some of the positions under this program. The employers' subsidy will continue through April 30, and it is anticipated that the job experience gained will lead to long-term employment opportunities.

"These positions offer youth the opportunity to gain on-the-job experience that will assist them in entering the workforce while providing the means for employers to offer youth a variety of opportunities," said Michelle Kolla, Executive Director of the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, which received funding for two positions. "Many youth who have applied may have graduated but have not attended post-secondary training, and in our experience youth who are given various employment opportunities often go on to post-secondary training with a better idea of their future career goals."

Across Canada, a high number of unemployed individuals are youth who often have difficulty securing or sustaining employment due to lack of transferable skills or lack of job experience. This pilot program follows from the success of Advanced Education's Young Workers' Employment Program for rural youth, the Summer Career Placement Program and the Student Training and Employment Program (STEP). These programs also aim to match youth with employers for work experience and training in Yukon.

"This program will support employers to help youth develop skills, while creating skilled staff who will be available to fill future employment vacancies," Rouble added.

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