

FOR RELEASE
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Government of Yukon supports Indigenous youth leadership through funding to Our Voices

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon will provide \$25,000 this year to support the operations of the Our Voices youth and emerging leaders collective.

"Youth are the future of our territory," Premier Darrell Pasloski said. "Our Voices has been working for more than three years to bring positivity to address the challenges that Indigenous youth in the North are facing. The Yukon government is proud to support the leadership, engagement and inspiration that this youth-led organization has demonstrated."

Yukon government provided \$180,000 to support the past three youth gatherings organized by the Our Voices.

"Our Voices is thrilled with the Yukon government's ongoing commitment to our work and we look forward to our continued work as we hold up Indigenous youth and emerging leaders," Our Voices co-chair Kluane Adamek said. "Our vision is to see our young leaders inspired, engaged and thriving! Youth and emerging leaders are leaders of right now. This support will enable Our Voices to support our young leaders as they build upon their leadership and development skills so they can carry forward their vision for the future."

Our Voices facilitates and creates leadership and development opportunities for Indigenous youth and emerging leaders. The group was created in response to tragic losses in Yukon, and in 2014 the first youth gathering, which brought together more than 100 northern Indigenous youth, was held in Brooks Brook. This momentum has continued with annual gatherings including the recent Youth Gathering 'Shāna Dákeyi Käy' - Youth on Our Country, held at Kathleen Lake, Yukon, in August.

"The support we have received from the Yukon government over the last three years showcases the type of partnerships Our Voices strives for," Our Voices co-chair Jordan Peterson said. "We welcome the Yukon government's commitment to investing in youth and emerging leaders, and continuing to support the work Our Voices is doing to explore culture, leadership, identity and create solutions. When leadership commits to investing in giving Indigenous youth an opportunity to understand and explore their cultural identity, we will see a generation that knows where they are going because they understand and honour where they came from."

Our Voices is a project of Tides Canada and is led by a Steering and Advisory Committee with representation from Indigenous emerging leaders from all Yukon First Nations.

Learn more:
Our Voices

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