



Government of Yukon

Government of Yukon » February 2009 » News Release #09-023

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 #09-023

February 9, 2009

Government to Train Front-Line Service Workers in Women-Centered Care

WHITEHORSE — Nancy Poole, internationally renowned researcher and educator, will be in Whitehorse to train substance abuse workers and service providers in women-centered care.

Front-line service providers and program managers in Yukon government, non-governmental organizations and First Nations will participate in a workshop in Whitehorse on February 11 and 12.

The training is offered in response to recommendations in a report entitled *Improving Treatment & Support for Yukon Girls & Women with Substance Abuse Problems and Addictions*. The report arose from a survey of government front-line workers conducted in spring 2007 by Nancy Poole and Gaye Hanson of Whitehorse.

"Research has shown that women and men have unique issues and responses to substance abuse," Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate Marian C. Horne said. "This training is the first of what we hope will be a longer-term training strategy that will also include women's substance abuse and trauma, mental health, prevention and health promotion."

The training will provide an overview of key gender differences in substance use and addiction. It will outline advances in evidence-based, women-centered practice and policy in the substance use field.

Nancy Poole is a research associate with the British Columbia Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (BCCEWH) and is known internationally for her research on women and substance use, and the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Poole will be assisted by Cristine Urquhart, the provincial training consultant for ActNow BC- Healthy Choices in Pregnancy, a key initiative of BCCEWH. Poole and Urquhart have developed and delivered training on women-centered care in the treatment of substance use across Canada.

For more information about the report visit: www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/.

-30-

Note to media: Nancy Poole will be available for interviews. To arrange a time, please contact Kirsten Madsen, Policy Analyst, Women's Directorate, 867-667-3045.

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