



## Government of Yukon

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FOR RELEASE #09-108  
May 1, 2009

### Yukon College Act Amended

WHITEHORSE – The Yukon Legislative Assembly this week unanimously supported the government's move to amend the *Yukon College Act*, increasing the college's autonomy and governance in a number of areas including degree granting status. The government's initiative, to enable the college to be able to respond to Yukon's unique environment and its northern culture, is also strongly welcomed by the college board.

"This is a positive move for Yukon, Yukon College, and our students, which recognizes the work that the college staff and the Board of Governors have been doing. It is clearly the natural next step in the evolution of this important post-secondary institution," Education Minister Patrick Rouble said today.

"Yukoners can be proud of the college and all that it has to offer. Obtaining a degree from Yukon College is now just one more option that Yukoners will have in terms of pursuing their academic and life-long learning goals," Rouble added.

A number of amendments were made to the act including:

- enshrining the appointment of a Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor;
- the addition of a Finance and Audit Committee to the board;
- formalizing the current Student Union and the Academic Council; and
- empowering the college to grant degrees.

"The changes in the *Yukon College Act* lay a strong foundation for the work that must be done to enhance the college's role in Yukon communities," Clarence Timmons, chair of the board, said. "In keeping with the Yukon College Strategic Plan for 2008-2013, we're on track with building a more vibrant and sustainable organization, working together with First Nations and all Yukon communities, while leading with our strengths in research, programs and service."

It was a significant moment in the Yukon Legislative Assembly witnessed by the Vice-President of Yukon College along with six college directors.

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