



Government of Yukon

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NEWS *release*

FOR RELEASE #09-115

May 12, 2009

Government of Yukon Continues Funding for Journey Far Carver Program

WHITEHORSE – Justice Minister Marian C. Horne, and Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart announced a commitment of \$345,000, for each of the next three fiscal years, to help continue the Journey Far carving program.

Program instruction for 15 participants includes advanced carving skills and marketing, which will help carvers pave their way toward successful employment and personal wellness.

"We've seen some excellent results from this program," Horne said. "Many of the young participants that have gone through the program are incredibly artistic and are developing skills they can use to further their careers."

"I am pleased that this program contributes to the well-being of these artists while showcasing their artistic talent," Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart said.

Journey Far is the advanced stream of programming offered by the Sundog Carving Studio and is administered by the Northern Cultural Expressions Society. Programming is steadily evolving and includes large-scale projects such as this summer's 30-foot dugout canoe that will be created at an on-the-land culture camp. There is increasing demand for artists' work, including from a major Canadian distributor.

"We are excited that our Yukon government partners have committed multi-year funding to this valuable work," Northern Cultural Expressions President Richard Provan said. "This support will provide certainty to the Journey Far program and will enable us to strengthen our capacity to meet participants' needs."

"Through the Journey Far program, I've been steadily learning about my culture, myself and my career as an artist," Tlingit carver William Callaghan said. "Now I am teaching new skills to beginners, and I'm looking forward to more opportunities to share what I am learning with the next generation."

Funding for Journey Far will come through the departments of Justice, and Health and Social Services. The Government of Yukon has been supporting this program since 2006.

The program is receiving increasing support from Yukon First Nation Elders, governments and community members, and will continue to evolve in response to this input.

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