



Government of Yukon

Government of Yukon » October 2009 » News Release #09-237

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 #09-237
October 6, 2009

Art and Recovery is the Theme for Mental Illness Awareness Week

WHITEHORSE – Four different art forms will help to celebrate Yukon Mental Illness Awareness Week, which runs from October 6 to 16. Mental Health Services will present a play, stand-up comedy, an art show, and a film screening.

"These events show how art can be used to both support recovery and teach others about mental illness," Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart said. "The Dirty Laundry play, Stand Up for Mental Health comedy, and The Soloist film provide different perspectives on stigma, prejudice, and discrimination regarding mental illnesses that are touching, humorous, and educational."

"For too long, Canadians with mental illnesses have been in the shadows," clinical manager of Mental Health Services Marie Fast said. "Too few Canadians know about the burden of mental illness on our society, and too few sufferers seek help when they need it. The goal of Mental Illness Awareness Week is to provide information to the public about living with – and recovering from – mental illness as a normal part of life."

Two performances of the Marilyn Avient's Dirty Laundry will be held in Whitehorse and one in Dawson City. Dirty Laundry is described as an engaging, poignant, and sometimes humorous tale of a woman's intimate struggle with, and eventual triumph over, a mental health issue that affects thousands of Canadians.

David Granirer will perform his stand-up comedy routine in Whitehorse and Haines Junction. Stand Up for Mental Health is a look at the lighter side of taking medications, seeing counselors, getting diagnosed, and surviving the mental health system.

Out of the Shadows art show is a display of visual art created by clients of Mental Health Services and their families in the recovery process.

The Soloist is an award-winning film that captures the true life story of Nathaniel Ayers, a former cello prodigy whose schizophrenia landed him on the streets. Journalist Steve Lopez befriends Ayers and supports him in his plight with mental illness.

Admission to all events is free. Everyone is welcome.

More information and a schedule of the week's events can be found at www.hss.gov.yk.ca.

-30-

The schedule of events is attached.

Contact:

Emily Younker
Cabinet Communications

Roni-Sue Sparvier
Communications, Health & Social Services

867-633-7961
emily.younger@gov.yk.ca

867-667-3611
roni-sue.sparvier@gov.yk.ca

Schedule of Events for Mental Illness Awareness Week

The Soloist – Film Screening

Whitehorse
Qwanlin Cinema Centre
October 6, 2009
7:00 pm

Out of the Shadows – Art Show

Whitehorse
Old Fire Hall
October 9 and 10, 2009
6:00 to 7:00 pm

Dirty Laundry – Play

Whitehorse
Old Fire Hall
October 9 and 10, 2009
7:00 pm

Dawson City
KIAC School of the Arts
October 13, 2009
7:00 pm

Stand Up for Mental Health – Stand-up Comedy

Whitehorse
Yukon Beringia Centre
October 15, 2009
7:00 pm

Haines Junction
Convention Centre
October 14, 2009
7:00 pm

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