



Government of Yukon

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NEWS *release*

FOR RELEASE #09-262
November 9, 2009

Program Paves the Way for First Nation Workers

WHITEHORSE – A new training program geared to improve First Nation workforce engagement in rural communities has received \$500,000 in funding.

Education Minister Patrick Rouble today announced funding for the Highway Maintenance Worker Training program, which will be delivered in partnership with the Department of Highways and Public Works. Funds will come from the Government of Yukon's new Labour Market Agreement with the federal government.

"Projects like this ensure everyone can get the skills and training they need to find and keep good jobs," federal Human Resources and Skills Development Minister Diane Finley said. "Through our Labour Market Agreement with Yukon, we are ensuring that all Canadians are job-ready."

"The Government of Yukon recognizes that successful transitions between education and training and the world of work are critical," Minister Rouble said. "We are working collaboratively to create a more responsive education system that meets the needs of all Yukoners and that continues to prepare Yukoners for Yukon opportunities."

"This program will allow First Nations citizens from throughout the territory to develop skills and experience to succeed in their chosen career," Highways and Public Works Minister Archie Lang said. "Working closely with our skilled and experienced staff allows learners to receive classroom theory combined with hands-on experience."

The Highway Maintenance Worker Training program began October 1. Over the course of the program, students receive training in safe work practices and procedures, traffic control certification, packer operator certification, and standard first aid that will enhance skills used for heavy equipment operation. Skills and training acquired through the program will prepare students for employment with government departments and the private sector.

Under the Labour Market Agreement (LMA), the Government of Canada provides Yukon with funding for programs to increase training for individuals, including those with limited skills to reach their full potential in the current marketplace. The program focuses on people often excluded from the workforce including older workers, youth, social assistance recipients and people with disabilities.

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