



Government of Yukon

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NEWS release

FOR RELEASE #09-288
December 16, 2009

Yukon Literacy Coalition Approved for Northern Strategy Trust Funding

WHITEHORSE – Family literacy received a boost when the Department of Education approved \$264,463 in funding for the Yukon Literacy Coalition under the Northern Strategy Trust initiative.

“Literacy is the foundation of education so this project’s objectives will help prepare Yukoners for Yukon jobs, while aligning with the Northern Strategy Trust fund’s objectives,” Education Minister Patrick Rouble said. “It will lead to a significant impact on sustainable development by focusing on literacy for the future of our children and our territory.”

The project, *Four Winds – Family and Community Literacy*, is supported jointly by the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Department of Education, and aims to further develop and operate a culturally-inclusive family literacy centre to support children and families.

Although programs start at the end of January, the public is welcome to stop by to see the centre’s progress. The Family Literacy Centre official opening will coincide with national Family Literacy Day on January 27, 2010, when it will start to offer programs and be available for literacy activities and events as part of its services. The centre operates from a 1,500 sq. ft. office in the Canada Games Centre.

The newly acquired funds have been earmarked for activities including outreach to the communities to share information and assist learners, build partnerships and local capacity, support families, and provide programs.

“An investment in our youth today is an investment in our future,” Teslin Tlingit Council Chief Peter Johnston said.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to support family and the community,” Yukon Literacy Coalition executive director Beth Mulloy said, “The centre is going to be a community-driven one-stop shop for family literacy both in Whitehorse and in rural Yukon.”

The Government of Canada established the Northern Strategy Trust to support the development of Canada’s North, with Yukon’s allotment amounting to \$40 million of the \$120 million trust.

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