



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Government announces fund to support training for local businesses**

WHITEHORSE—Education Minister Scott Kent announced a new training fund to help businesses access training opportunities to further contribute to Yukon's economic growth.

"Our government sees tremendous value in the creation of this new fund to improve the business community's access to training and development," Kent said. "The fund will be a new element to our ongoing efforts to develop an inclusive, adaptable and productive workforce that contributes to and strengthens Yukon's economy."

The Business Training Fund will help increase the capacity of both existing and prospective employees to work more effectively and efficiently, helping Yukon businesses to increase their productivity and take advantage of future opportunities.

The Yukon government has committed \$75,000 per year to the fund, which will be administered through the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce by a volunteer committee comprising Yukon business representatives. The fund can be accessed by submitting an application to the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce. The application template can be found online starting today.

"The Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce recognizes the challenge that exists for our business community in meeting the demands of Yukon's expanding economy," Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce president Rick Karp said. "Staffing is a big part of that challenge and we are pleased to be able to offer training opportunities to businesses and individuals to create job opportunities for Yukon residents and we thank the Yukon government for its foresight."

"It's great to see the committee's work transition from plan to action," Yukon Chamber of Commerce chair Darielle Talarico said. "This fund will help homegrown businesses stay on the cutting edge of skills training and staff development."

The Business Training Fund resulted from a recommendation in the action plan for the 2011 Comprehensive Skills and Trades Training Strategy, which was developed by the Government of Yukon working together with local labour market stakeholders, including business and industry, the Government of Canada, First Nation governments and non-government organizations. The work done by these groups was the result of the Labour Market Framework, which was created to ensure Yukon has the workforce it needs.

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See backgrounder attached.

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## **Backgrounder**

### **Labour Market Framework Strategies**

The Labour Market Framework was released at the Labour Market Framework Symposium in October 2008. The symposium was an opportunity for stakeholders to gather and discuss key topics that guided the development of the strategies and establish working groups. The framework can be viewed online. There are five strategies in four documents; the Recruitment Strategy and the Employee Retention Strategy are closely related and were combined in one document.

### **Labour Market Information Strategy**

The Labour Market Information Strategy is the cornerstone of the Labour Market Framework. Timely, accurate and accessible information will ensure that the strategies are based on the best available information so that sound decisions can be made. It will also help guide people with career planning.

### **Comprehensive Skills and Trades Training Strategies**

The Comprehensive Skills and Trades Training Strategy will help to improve labour force productivity and maintain the competitive nature of Yukon's economy in the face of globalization. It will help Yukoners seize opportunities that a growing economy can bring. It is also an important way to ensure continued support to those who are underrepresented in the workforce, such as Aboriginal people, youth, older workers, people with disabilities and women in trades, and help them successfully integrate into the job market.

### **Immigration Strategy**

Immigration is an important source of labour and this strategy helps ensure immigration is approached in a manner that is responsive to labour market needs, sustainable through changing economies, and helps safeguard job opportunities for Yukoners and other Canadians.

### **Recruitment and Retention Strategies**

The Recruitment Strategy has been developed to meet the challenges of filling Yukon's job vacancies in a variety of positions and sectors. The Employee Retention Strategy is a means of maximizing employers' efforts to keep their current workforce engaged. The combined strategies will enhance efforts to recruit and retain Canadians and persons underrepresented in the workforce, including Aboriginal people, rural workers, persons with disabilities, older workers, women in trades, and youth.

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