



FOR RELEASE
March 16, 2012

Finding new audiences one element of Yukon's Touring Artist Fund

WHITEHORSE—Five professional Yukon artists will share \$30,394 through the Touring Artist Fund to present their work at national and international venues.

"The exceptional array of talent supported by the Touring Artist Fund in the December intake speaks to the breadth of creativity that flourishes in Yukon," Tourism and Culture Minister Mike Nixon said. "These highly recognized individuals are a credit to their discipline and worthy ambassadors as they continue to tour and delight new audiences."

The Touring Artist Fund fosters the development of the arts by supporting literary, visual and performing artists, ensembles and companies to present their work at public exhibitions, concerts, festivals or showcases.

Jamella Hagen is receiving \$2,510 to travel to Ontario to promote her first book of poetry, entitled *Kerosene* (Nightwood Editions, 2011). She earned a master of fine arts in creative writing from the University of British Columbia and is the former executive editor of *PRISM international*, a Canadian literary magazine. Her poetry has appeared in journals across Canada and in the anthologies *Unfurled*, *Ice Floe* and *The Best Canadian Poetry in English, 2010*. Hagen has won the Fiddlehead's Ralph Gustafson Poetry Prize and was shortlisted for a CBC Literary Award.

"For writers, touring is fundamental to building a readership and a career," Hagen said. "As a writer, my current artistic and career objective is to expand from a northern/West Coast audience to reach a broader Canadian audience. Touring to Ontario will give me opportunities to develop and grow through national exposure and allow me to become a better performer."

Applications for the Touring Artist Fund are accepted four times per year. The next intake deadline is June 15. Applications and guidelines are available at Tourism and Culture's Arts Funding and Awards website.

Applicants are encouraged to speak with the fund administrator before applying. Call 867-667-8789 or toll-free 1-800-661-0408 ext. 8789 or email artsfund@gov.yk.ca.

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See backgrounder below.

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Recipients – December 15, 2011 Intake

Applicant	Project	Amount
Gordie Tentrees	To perform at 18 venues across the USA on Route 66 with the Tin Can Caravan, September 2012.	\$10,000.00
Soir de Semaine	To tour eight venues in Quebec and Ontario, July 2012.	\$9,254.00
Speed Control	To perform in 24 venues in British Columbia and Alberta schools and showcases, February and March 2012.	\$6,170.00
Jamella Hagen	To present poetry in Toronto, Niagara Falls and Cobourg, Ontario in May 2012.	\$2,510.00
Monika Melynchuk	To hang two works in the Nook Group show for Illustrators in Toronto and give an artist's talk, May 2012.	\$2,460.00
	Total	\$30,394.00

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