



FOR RELEASE
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New Horizons summit to tackle literacy issues in Yukon

WHITEHORSE—Yukon literacy stakeholders will converge in Whitehorse next week for the New Horizons Education Summit: A Focus on Literacy to begin planning a strategy to strengthen literacy in Yukon.

"This is an opportunity to foster a common understanding among stakeholders," Education Minister Scott Kent said. "Literacy is a priority for the Government of Yukon and we are excited to bring so many different groups together to reach a common goal."

The summit will facilitate collaboration between literacy stakeholders including non-governmental organizations, literacy interest groups, community business groups, Yukon First Nations and the Government of Yukon. Participants will address challenges to literacy that are specific to Yukon.

The summit will begin with a public event on December 4 at 7 p.m. in the Westmark Whitehorse ballroom with opening remarks from Education Minister Scott Kent and Health and Social Services Minister Doug Graham. Keynote speaker Jason Ohler will then take the stage to deliver *New Media, New Students – New Literacies, New Citizens*, an innovative and interactive presentation about literacy education in the digital age. Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend.

"Yukon has relatively high literacy levels per capita compared to other jurisdictions, but there are gaps that need to be addressed," Kent added. "We are taking this opportunity to build relationships and strengthen our ability to address literacy barriers."

The summit will be the first time that such a broad assortment of literacy stakeholders has come together in Yukon to discuss literacy issues spanning early childhood, kindergarten to Grade 12, post-secondary and adult education.

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