



FOR RELEASE
December 3, 2012

Projects share Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund money

WHITEHORSE—The Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund is awarding \$96,575 to support six projects in three Yukon communities, Justice Minister Mike Nixon announced today.

"The Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund supports community programs that enhance the social fabric of our communities. Providing education and positive activities for youth is an important part of crime prevention in our communities," Nixon said. "Each of these projects is truly contributing to making our communities a safer and more compassionate place to live."

The Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund awards money to projects designed to:

- provide services and information to support victims of offences;
- help reduce the incidence of crime;
- address the root cause of criminal behaviour;
- prevent violence against women and children; and
- publicize information about crime prevention and how people can protect themselves from becoming victims.

"The trust fund has been providing funding to grassroots community projects aimed at preventing crime and supporting victims for fifteen years," Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees Reverend Martin Carroll said. "I continue to be amazed at the quality of projects that apply for funding."

"The Boys and Girls Club of Whitehorse wants to express its deep gratitude in receiving the Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund grant for our Kulinary Kids Program," Project Coordinator for the Boys and Girls Club of Whitehorse Duncan Johnstone said. "This program will help us to empower youth through positive role modeling, increased self-esteem and understanding of negative gender stereotypes."

The fund is supported through a variety of sources as set out in the *Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Act*. The Board of Trustees reviews proposals and awards money two times a year. The next deadline for funding proposals is February 15, 2013.

The public is invited to donate money to support community projects by contacting Victim Services and Community Justice at 867-667-8746.

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See background attached.

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Background

FALL 2012 CRIME PREVENTION VICTIM SERVICES TRUST FUND (CPVSTF) AWARDS

The Boys and Girls Club of Whitehorse was awarded \$20,000 to support its ***Kulinary Kids!*** project. Contact Duncan Johnstone at 867-393-2824.

Gentle Steps Equine Assisted Learning Centre will receive \$12,000 in support of the ***Parent Support and Education*** program. Contact Elisabeth Lexow in Watson Lake at 867-536-7479.

Village of Carmacks was awarded \$3,400 to support the ***Youth and Families Program***. Contact Cindy Underhill at 867-863-5057.

Strong Aboriginal Sisters Support Society was awarded \$5,000 to support the writing of a new proposal for a ***S.A.S.S.*** project that will showcase Aboriginal women and build self-esteem and self-respect among girls age 12 - 16. Contact Stephanie Brown at 867-393-7105.

Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation will receive \$30,675 for its ***Northern Tutchone Uncle's Retreat***. Contact Viola Mullett at 867-863-5576.

Skookum Jim Friendship Centre was awarded \$25,500 in support of its ***After School Tutoring Program***. Contact Kayla Mintz at 867-633-7689.

SUCCESS STORIES FROM FALL 2011 FUNDING

- On New Year's Eve in 1997 the lives of the McIntosh family of Squamish, B.C. were turned upside-down. A horrific beating left Bob McIntosh dead after he tried to quiet a party at a neighbour's home. Katy Hutchison and her two young children were left to deal with the aftermath. Although there were around 150 young people at the party, no one was talking and it wasn't until five years later that a charge was laid against Ryan Aldridge, then twenty-five years old, for Bob's murder. You would think that Katy Hutchison would hold hatred, animosity, fear, sorrow or many other emotions toward Ryan Aldridge, but Katy took another path. She wanted to meet with Ryan, hear from him what happened, let him know that she cared about his healing and wanted him to help her heal from her pain. Ryan and Katy were able to meet and once Ryan was granted parole they started giving presentations together.

The CPVSTF contributed towards Katy Hutchison coming to Yukon to tell her story to over 1,800 Yukoners in Haines Junction and Whitehorse. She talked about how lack of supervision of teenagers, alcohol and drugs, and bad choices led to the tragedy in the first place. She spoke about her need to connect with Ryan and the positive outcome it has led to for her, for Ryan and for her children. She told her story on how this type of restorative justice process can bring closure after intense hurt. The project, sponsored by the Yukon Circle of Change, was considered a great success.

- Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle (WAWC) is a non-profit society with a vision to promote and foster wellness and healing for Aboriginal women in Yukon. From September 2010 to September 2011 WAWC was able to provide aboriginal women's advocacy through prior funding received from the CPVSTF. However, once the pilot program was done it needed to seek ongoing funding for the project by clearly showing that Aboriginal women need and want the services of an

advocate and that the advocate could contribute towards healing.

The CPVSTF contributed toward hiring a consultant to conduct a needs assessment for the Aboriginal Women's Advocate Service. Surveys were completed by 347 women from nine Yukon communities and by 420 others via Facebook. WAWC was happy with the survey results, feeling that the data represented a wide cross section of Yukon Aboriginal women of all ages.

News Release #12-236



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