

FOR RELEASE

August 7, 2006

#06-182

**ARTS GROUPS RECEIVE FUNDING**

WHITEHORSE – Twenty arts organizations will share \$445,000 to develop and present the arts in the Yukon, announced Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor.

“The Yukon Arts Funding Program provides assistance to not-for-profit arts organizations primarily engaged in literary, visual or performing arts activities with ongoing and year-round projects and activities,” Taylor said.

Two new groups are receiving funding for the 2006 season. The Ted Harrison Artist Retreat Society receives \$5,000 to operate a visual arts residency program for local, regional and national artists, in addition to its community outreach programs provided to Yukon residents.

Extremely Moving Youth Society receives \$10,000 towards dance training, performing and touring for youth, community and established dance artists.

“The Yukon government is a strong supporter of the arts in the Yukon,” Taylor said. “It is with support like the Yukon Arts Funding Program that artistic endeavours such as festivals, theatre, visual arts, dance and music are able to flourish and resonate throughout Yukon’s communities.”

The Yukon Arts Funding Program is a combination of Yukon government and Lotteries Yukon funding. In 2005, groups were able to leverage additional support to the tune of \$337,000 in national funding and \$36,000 in municipal funding with overall earned revenue at \$2,399,000.

“Yukon arts and culture programs and events are a major draw for tourism, while at the same time Yukoners are able to experience a wealth of talent year-round,” Taylor said, noting that more than 800 performances or events took place in 2005 with more than 57,000 people in attendance.

Yukon Arts Funding Program applications are assessed through an arms-length process by the Yukon Arts Advisory Council, a seven-member council responsible for providing advice on arts funding, policy and programs.

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Attached is a list of fund recipients.

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**2006/07 - Yukon Arts Funding Program Recommendations**

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| 1.  | <b>Alsek Music Festival</b><br>3 day annual music festival in Haines Junction that promotes northern performers.  | \$11,000   |
| 2.  | <b>Dawson City Music Festival</b><br>3 day annual music festival that showcases northern and "outside" performers. Presents community concerts and events throughout the year.  | \$36,000   |
| 3.  | <b>Extremely Moving Youth Society</b><br>Dance training, performing and touring for youth, community and established dance artists.   | \$10,000   |
| 4.  | <b>Frostbite Music Society</b><br>3 day annual music festival that showcases northern and "outside" acts as well as associated programming in music sector promotion and education.   | \$32,000   |
| 5.  | <b>Guild Society</b><br>Produces a community theatre season, monthly music coffee houses and associated educational programs. Maintains a multi-purpose arts facility.  | \$53,000   |
| 6.  | <b>Jazz Society of the Yukon</b><br>Presents <i>Jazz on the Wing</i> series, provides training and education and commissions new work   | \$16,000   |
| 7.  | <b>Link Dance Foundation Society</b><br>Dance education, performance, outreach, touring   | \$7,500  |
| 8.  | <b>Longest Night Society</b><br>An annual concert of original music, theatre, storytelling and dance with associated touring, commissions, recordings and special projects.   | \$12,000   |
| 9.  | <b>Nakai Theatre</b><br>A professional theatre company dedicated to developing original work, presenting a season and providing education and development for all aspects of professional theatre. Nakai is awarded \$57,000 for 2006/07, \$57,000 for 2007/08 and \$57,000 for 2208/09 for a total of \$171,000 as per a multi-year funding agreement subject to legislated appropriation and annual accounting. | \$57,000<br>over three<br>years<br>ending<br>March 31,<br>2009 |
| 10. | <b>Northern Fibres Guild</b><br>Training and promotion of fibre arts and artists. Delivers annual Cranberry Fair. Equipment and library loans and rentals.  | \$5,000  |
| 11. | <b>Northern Lights School of Dance</b><br>Provides training and showcasing opportunities for a wide range of dance techniques. Provides master workshops for dancers and instructors.   | \$23,500   |
| 12. | <b>Society For Education and Culture</b><br>Haines Junction based cultural society that organizes cultural events in the Kluane area.   | \$8,000  |
| 13. | <b>Society of Yukon Artists of Native Ancestry</b><br>An umbrella organization for Yukon First Nations artists.   | \$36,000   |
| 14. | <b>Ted Harrison Artist Retreat Society</b><br>Operates a visual arts residency program for local, regional and national artists as well as a community outreach program for Yukon residents.  | \$5,000  |
| 15. | <b>Whitehorse Community Choir</b><br>Delivers an eight-month choir season through practices and performances. Presents guest vocalists and conductors as well as special events such as tours and commissions.  | \$16,000   |
| 16. | <b>Whitehorse Concerts</b><br>Presents a classical music performing arts series, workshops, promotes Yukon musicians.   | \$33,000   |
| 17. | <b>Yukon Art Society</b><br>Presents visual arts shows in gallery; provides education and promotional programs for artists, delivers annual <i>Arts In the Park</i> programme.  | \$30,000   |

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| 18. | <b>Yukon Educational Theatre</b><br>Provides community celebrations and educational theatre programs through creating original theatre pieces and touring throughout the Yukon. | \$4,000  |
| 19. | <b>Yukon Film Society</b><br>Presenting film, co-op, training   | \$12,000 |
| 20. | <b>Yukon International Storytelling Festival</b><br>An annual three day festival showcasing local and visiting storytelling as well as associated educational programs.         | \$38,000 |

Total funds allocated **\$445,000**