

Yukon Rural Review

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National recognition of Yukon young leader

Young people are the leaders of both today and tomorrow in rural communities. Rural youth were recognized by the Government of Canada's Rural Secretariat for their exceptional contributions and commitment to their communities at the second Young Leaders in Rural Canada Awards (YLRCA), in Ottawa, last November 2005.

Jason Leonard of the Yukon was acknowledged as an honorary mention for his achievements under the leadership category. Leonard has been dedicated to bringing peer support in his community and implementing several programs to broaden and expand youth initiatives. The following story profiles Leonard, proving that young people can play key roles in achieving their community's goals.

When Jason Leonard first attended Yukon College he knew he faced some challenges, but armed with his positive outlook and a commitment to bettering his future and that of his community, he was willing to set out and make a change. Like many youth coming from northern rural communities, the exposure to serious issues with alcohol, drug and substance abuse is common. Attending college is one way in which youth take the first step to reaching their goals and becoming substance free.

As a new student dealing with sobriety issues and limited literacy skills, Leonard realized that one of the best strategies for working through his challenges was to provide resources for himself as well as for other young people who wanted to succeed academically while coping with

an addiction.

With an open approach to sharing his past experiences, Leonard helps others understand their own issues with addiction. He offers his support to students and speaks candidly at events to raise awareness about the negative impacts of substance abuse, hoping to inspire youth by the account of his struggles and his path to recovery. He sought out options to further encourage peer support and networking functions, taking the initiative to implement several programs on campus such as weekly Alcoholics Anonymous sessions and spending his personal time opening up the college's gym to offer recreational activities as an alternative choice.

While his efforts were helping students of the college, Leonard had a larger vision for a more positive environment to benefit the community as a whole.

Leonard forged a unique partnership with the Whitehorse Salvation Army to provide space for youth to meet and have access to recreational activities. "With limited options, we really have to work together and maximize the resources we have," adds Leonard. With access to a permanent facility, Leonard established The Straight Arrow, a community group reaching out to young men coping with addictions, providing them with fun, recreational sports events. "In times when people struggle with addictions the most, they don't have the opportunity to make better choices. A simple thing like opening up an area to interact with people in a more positive environment goes a long way to giving youth the opportunity to make a change."



Jason Leonard
Leonard, one of three honorary mentions, was recognized in Ottawa under the leadership category.

Leonard continues to take on new initiatives where he can influence others to make successful choices. Currently, he is working to spearhead a number of alcohol-free events for Whitehorse's local winter festival and has recently been appointed president of the Student Union at Yukon College.

The YLRCA are annual awards that recognize and celebrate the successes of rural youth who dedicate their passion, spirit and skills to benefit rural, remote and northern communities. They were created to honour the community development work of rural youth between the ages of 18 and 29 in the three categories. More information on the awards can be obtained by calling the toll-free number, 1-888-781-2222 or by visiting <http://www.rural.gc.ca>.

Yukon First Nations find treasures among ashes

They are small, ugly mushrooms, and, if consumed raw with alcohol, they can be poisonous. For a limited time in the summer, after a wildfire tears through a Yukon forest, morels will pop up in its wake, enticing entrepreneurs to sharpen their knives, grab their baskets and go hunting for the delicious fungi. Yukon First Nations wanted to be part of this new industry and the Government of Yukon's



Regional Economic Development Fund was there to help them get started. being fine restaurants from Japan and France. When they can be found, morels, a delicacy in North America and abroad, reward pickers lucratively, but their growth is sporadic and unpredictable.

It is not known how much revenue Yukon morel mushrooms, the value of which was only discovered nine years ago, has generated. Cash crop entices pickers from far and wide, their clientele largely

bounty. In response to the mushrooming interest in the harvest and the increasing demand for morels, the council's First Nations Forestry Program recently hosted a morel mushroom industry workshop.

Morels appear only in areas decimated by fire; their growing season is six weeks long. The next time there is a run on morels, members of the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) want to be more prepared to reap the

"This was a very timely workshop," says Khéyáwk Louise Parker, First Nations

business development co-ordinator with Yukon Economic Development Regional Economic Development. "The intent of the workshop was to bring together all of the Yukon First Nations so they could look at the industry as a whole, and see if there was some common ground where the Yukon could share information."

Attended by about 50 representatives from all 14 Yukon First Nations, the May workshop stimulated discussion on an unregulated industry that, thus far, has been primarily exploited by those living outside the territory. The delegates, most of whom are First Nations entrepreneurs who expressed an interest in morel mushroom picking, processing and selling, sought to examine the logistics of both harvesting and marketing.

The workshop received \$10,000 in support from Yukon Economic Development's Regional Economic Development Fund, a program designed

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Rural Team Yukon:

Who we are, what we do, where we are going

The Canadian Rural Partnership in the Yukon plays a role in helping to connect government to rural communities and draws attention to rural and northern issues.

Through Rural Team Yukon (RTY), a group comprised of government and community-based organizations, we are working with rural communities to address locally-identified priorities. The team supports Yukon's unique rural development challenges through the creation of partnerships and by bringing departments/organizations together to share information and explore ways to take action. The ongoing activities of the team will focus on community capacity and education, economic development, community wellness and intergovernmental collaboration.

Over the past seven years, RTY has partnered with local governments and organizations to provide community access to information and learning/networking opportunities. Bringing workshops to rural areas such as E-biz for Entrepreneurs and contributing to events like the Bringing Youth Towards Equality (BYTE) Youth Leadership Conference, we support the development of rural and northern citizens in building positive change in communities and developing leadership capacity. Our achievements also include improved services through our involvement with Service Canada and the redesign of the Yukon Blue Pages. In 2006-2007, the team plans to build upon previous successes and our relationships with members such as the Association of Yukon Communities, as we move forward in addressing community priorities.

We are committed to working in partnership with rural Yukoners towards empowered communities. It is our hope that this newsletter will draw your attention to future opportunities and be a way for rural citizens and organizations to showcase their communities and accomplishments.

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Astounding results expected from the 'Olympics of Science'

What will likely be the largest co-ordinated scientific effort in the history of science will take place in 2007-2008 - the fourth International Polar Year (IPY). This once-in-a-generation international effort has been termed the "Olympics of Science". There will be considerable activity occurring in the Canadian north.

Though many people may have never heard of the IPY or the International Geophysical Year (IGY), they probably benefit daily from innovations that have found their origins in the last three Polar Years. The IPY program was first introduced in 1882-83 - the world's first internationally co-ordinated and integrated scientific exploration of earth. It was followed by the second IPY in 1932-33 and the IGY in 1957-58. The IGY saw 66 countries and more than 60,000 people engaged in an 18-month exploration of the polar regions, the earth in general, the atmosphere and near space. Over \$1 billion (U.S.) was invested.

How have rural residents benefited from all this effort? Canadians are often characterized as students of weather. Every time you check the weather forecast you take advantage of the innovation of the first IPY, internationally-synchronized and shared weather observations. We all complain about the accuracy of forecasts, but without this innovation and recognition that polar weather systems help drive the earth's weather and climate systems, those forecasts would be much less accurate.

Modern communications systems have transformed the lives of rural residents everywhere. Investigations of the earth's magnetic fields and radiation belts have led to more reliable radio transmissions in the north. The advent of the space age occurred during the IGY with the launch of the first 10 man-made satellites, including Sputnik. This not only resulted in new discoveries, but satellite-based communications and earth and weather observation. Fifty years ago, how many people could have imagined satellite-based phone, radio or television service? Many in the north are partially dependent



Photo courtesy of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Thousands of scientific observations were recorded in the polar regions on the climate, waters and land during the first Polar Year. At this astronomical observatory not far from the village of Pangnirtung on Baffin Island, instruments like this telescope shown here were used to determine geographic location based on observations of the stars and planets.



Isabelle Dubois, Qanuippitaa

ArcticNet graduate students measuring water properties of a sub-Arctic lake in Nunavik.

on aircraft. It was no accident that studies of the earth's magnetic field, critical for navigation, were one area of focused research for Canadians during the second IPY.

The upcoming IPY will incorporate many new innovations including approaches to the study of the earth and its polar regions. This could not have been imagined by many of the scientists now retiring who took part in the last IGY.

As a result, these advances permit exploration into uncharted topics. Modern computer technology and data transmission will ensure rapid "warehousing", management and sharing of new data, information and insights. For the first time, this information will be available to the public.

In the past, scientists were just visitors, setting up temporary residences at lonely research bases for up to a year. Now, a large number of the investigators will be residents of polar regions. Many of these will be of aboriginal ancestry who will be combining the tools of western science with the traditional knowledge of their ancestors to provide new understanding of the polar regions and the processes that are driving global systems.

There will still be studies in fields such as earth, ocean, atmospheric, space and biological sciences. But for the first time, many of these studies will be integrated to providing a more ecological perspective of the workings of the globe. And for the first time these will be combined with studies of the "human dimension"; the study of polar residents, their health, economies, cultures and political systems. The polar regions and their societies are no longer way out there, but integral participants in the global society.

Internationally, the IPY is being co-ordinated by an international office, located at the British Antarctic Survey in the UK. Many nations not normally associated with the poles are participating, including countries such as Egypt, Israel, Bangladesh and Malaysia. Why? Again, there is recognition that what happens in the polar latitudes affects us all. One factor that attracts many of

these nations is the increasing awareness of the role polar regions play in changing climate regimes. Understanding what is causing melting glaciers, rising sea levels, melting permafrost, more erratic weather systems and predicting the impacts these changes will have on the citizens of these nations truly makes all of mankind indirectly "citizens of the poles".

Canada is a leader in IPY 4 with a Canadian sitting as the international co-chair.

A steering committee and secretariat have been operating for more than a year to put in place the infrastructure that will assist the Canadian and international science community to operate in the Canadian north. For the first time, northerners and representatives of major aboriginal organizations play critical roles on the steering committee.

The IPY also provides economic opportunities for residents of the north.

To date, approximately one third of the some 260 research programs proposed by Canadians have either northern leads or northern participation. As well, more than 3000 Canadians are listed on the over 1200 proposals submitted internationally. The IPY could act as a catalyst to the establishment of new centers of research and education in northern Canada. The IPY will provide northerners and northern businesses opportunities to supply logistical and other services to many of the world's scientific community who plan to carry out studies in Canada.

The IPY gets underway in March 2007 - less than a year away. There are still opportunities to become involved.

If you would like further information, contact the Canadian Secretariat for International Polar Year at e-mail: ipy@ualberta.ca or visit the web sites at <http://www.ipy-api.ca> and <http://www.ipy.org>.



Inspired by the third IPY, Ian Church is a science advisor to the Government of Yukon and is the chair for the National IPY Committee.

Preserving the past By Michael Edwards

When Chris Beacom purchased an old home in Dawson City two years ago, most of his friends thought he was making a mistake.

"Everyone was a naysayer," said Beacom. "The house at the time was condemnable. But when people see it now, they realize that I made the right decision."

Before purchasing the house, Beacom enrolled in a self-help course offered by the Yukon Housing Corporation where he learned about the financial incentives that may be available to owners of historic properties.

Of most interest to Beacom was the Historic Properties Assistance Program (HPAP), offered by Yukon's Department of Tourism and Culture. The HPAP is intended to preserve Yukon's built heritage by making technical and financial assistance available to people who wish to undertake preservation, restoration, development and/or interpretation of their property.

"I knew a little about it (HPAP), because it's been used in Dawson so effectively in the past," says Beacom. "Without the program, we wouldn't have been able to buy a house that was in need of so much work."

Built in 1903, and lived in by the Crayford family for more than 30 years, the Beacom house is a typical early Dawson City residence. It was also in typical condition for a house of its age - the foundation, siding, roof and floors all needed replacement or major repair.

Over the past two years, Beacom has received \$18,900 through the HPAP, which he's used to replace the foundation and siding.

HPAP applications are reviewed and approved by Yukon Government's Heritage Resources Unit. In 2004/05, a total \$75,000 was granted to ten projects across the Yukon. These include the Legion Hall in Mayo, an old trading post in Tagish, and a former RCMP barracks in Carmacks.

In order to be eligible for HPAP funds, the historic significance of the property needs to be confirmed. The applicant will be asked to provide historic research, as well as written support from their municipality or from local historic associations, First Nations or other community-based groups. If approved, up to 50 per cent of eligible costs are made available.



A work in progress: Chris Beacom's Dawson City home last year, in the middle of restoration work.

For more information about the Historic Properties Assistance Program, contact Bruce Barrett, Historic Sites Project Officer, (867) 667-3463 or visit the web site at http://www.yukonheritage.com/application_forms-hpac.htm.

Social economy: sparking social and community development

The Government of Canada expressed its determination to help social economy enterprises in a number of ways, including giving them access to a range of programs currently offered to small businesses. It also provided new funding through pilot programs that will strengthen capacity building, financing and research for the social economy.

Social economy enterprises are run like businesses and produce goods and services. However, they manage their operations and redirect their surpluses in pursuit of social and community goals such as affordable housing, skills development, promoting civic participation and addressing local environmental challenges.

The social economy is important because it contributes to a range of community goals and has the potential to create collective wealth through the production of goods and services. Enterprises provide a flexible and sustainable tool that can help communities to achieve their own objectives, such as:

- stimulating job creation and skills development;
- enhancing community capacity for social supports;
- supporting economic growth and neighbourhood revitalization;
- protecting the environment; and
- mobilizing disadvantaged groups.

To support the social economy, the Government of Canada will invest:

- \$17 million over two years for a pilot program for community capacity building;
- \$100 million over five years to provide financing for social

enterprises; and

- \$15 million over five years to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to support research projects.

The Government of Canada is just beginning to understand the power and potential of the social economy and enterprises.

To learn more about Yukon opportunities, contact Jacine Fox, Strategic Northern Investments Officer for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, at (867) 667-3339, e-mail: foxj@inac-ainc.gc.ca, or Meg Horn, Infrastructure Officer, at (867) 667-3811. If outside the calling area, you can call toll-free at 1-800-661-0451.

The following article submitted by Yukon Entrepreneurship Centre Society's Don Inverarity discusses the relationship between social enterprises and entrepreneurs.

Social Entrepreneurship

It's not often that the words social and entrepreneurship appear in the same context, some people might even consider them an oxymoron. However, more and more businesses are being set up with a clear mandate to help improve some social aspect of their lives.

Some businesses consider themselves part of the social economy. A thrift store, creative, collective, co-op or even a business like the Body Shop that gives a percentage of revenues to environmental causes consider itself to be part of the social economy. The key issue is the motivation that distinguishes social entrepreneurship from just plain capitalism.

From a moral perspective it would be nice to believe that all businesses donate to improve the well being of the community they serve, and in fact, many businesses strive to achieve this "give back" as part of who they are as a local business. But are they doing it to be good corporate citizens or do they view community donations as part of a "return on investment"?

The motivation of enterprises to have a social conscience is as complex as that of individuals who volunteer in their community. The trick, as social organizations, is to find out what that motivation is and try to meet their needs to achieve a better and stronger community. For example, if you are the head of a local community service organization, you know that each member joins for different reasons. Some join for the prestige of being part of the group, others to play a leadership role and some for the fellowship and friendship of the group. The same is true of enterprises. Many businesses encourage their employees to belong to local groups, churches or to help at the local volunteer bureau for many reasons. So is it a fair question then to ask what the motivation is of a business that tries to improve the community in which they live?

The truth of the matter is that for many businesses the luxury of social "give back" is directly related to the health of their bottom line. So, is it to our advantage to support those businesses that clearly state their social goals? If they succeed, then we all can succeed.

To reach the Yukon Entrepreneurship Centre Society, contact Don Inverarity at (867) 393-3574 or e-mail: donald@yec.ca.

Crime prevention strategy targets root causes

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada's (PSEPC) National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) is responsible for implementing the National Crime Prevention Strategy, a plan designed by the Government of Canada.

PSEPC is working on the principle that the surest way to reduce crime is to focus on the factors that put individuals at risk -- the root causes like family violence, school problems and drug abuse -- and to build stronger, healthier communities.

The National Crime Prevention Strategy provides the tools, knowledge and support that communities need to deal with the causes of crime. It further aids areas to design and implement innovative and sustainable ways to prevent crime.

In 1994, Phase I of the strategy provided a framework for co-ordinating a range of federal initiatives that highlighted proactive and social development for crime prevention. It also established the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC), whose work has done much to advance a social development approach.

Phase II was launched in 1998. Founded on recommendations that resulted from years of consultation and policy work from the NCPC, Phase II supports communities by undertaking crime prevention activities through the distribution of grants/contributions and through the sharing of "lessons learned."

Objectives of the strategy are to: promote partnerships between governments, businesses, community groups and individuals to reduce crime and victimization; assist communities in developing and implementing community-based solutions to local problems that contribute to crime and victimization; increase public awareness of, and support for, crime prevention; and, conduct research on crime prevention and establish best practices.

In the Yukon, the strategy has supported 149 projects totalling almost \$4.25 million in 14 communities. The Yukon NCPC office focuses on working collaboratively with as many partners as possible. This approach resulted in the Yukon Justice, RCMP and NCPC co-delivering project planning workshops in seven communities. Additional results included research on the impact of NCPC projects as well as a series of roundtables that identified promising practices in partnership building, sustainability and engaging diverse populations. Other collaborations with Crime Prevention Yukon, Yukon College and others provide opportunities for research, training and additional support for communities.

Three new funding programs replaced the previous funding structures. These were designed to respond to community demands for a more simplified, easily-accessible funding process as well as longer-term support for multi-year efforts.

For more information on funding programs, please call Linda Casson Hare, Program Officer, at (867) 668-3642 or visit <http://www.psepc.gc.ca>

Passing the Fire: By Carol Coote

I was recently part of the first-ever Volunteerism Academy, an energizing event that took place during October 2005 in Vancouver. The B.C. Network for the Canada Volunteerism Initiative organized and hosted the event, inviting participants from the Yukon to join in the theme of "Passing the Fire".

The aim of the Academy was to strengthen community volunteerism through knowledge building and intergenerational exchange of information. Delegates would 'pass the fire' between generations and then out into their own communities.

Stories, experiences and passions were shared with the common goal to strengthen community volunteerism.

Thirty-two established community volunteers (twenty-nine from all over B.C. and three from Yukon who were supported by the Canada Volunteerism Initiative (CVI) Yukon network) were invited to gather together for three days of learning, knowledge exchange and action plan development. Participants were chosen based on their demonstrated community leadership knowledge and skills, or strong leadership potential to engage volunteers in their communities.

The delegates were representative of three generations, many different ethnic and cultural groups, and from a wide diversity of geographic locations.

During a colourful opening reception, delegates were led into the gathering space by a group of enthusiastic drummers.

Introductions ensued and we were treated

to an inspirational and thought-provoking speaker, Martha Parker from Calgary.

The issues were wide-ranging, including those of geography, resources, inclusion of all generations, cultures, backgrounds and economic sectors—in other

words, the communities in which we all share. Giving mutual support through listening to and exchanging stories was very affirming of what one does and gives energy to extend oneself further.

While we Yukon delegates—Tor Forsberg, executive director for Southeast Yukon Proper Land Use Society, Michelle Vainio, councillor for the Town of Faro, and myself, Carol Coote, executive director for the Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards & Committees (AYSCBC) — did not know each other or anyone else, by the end of the three days, the sharing of discussion, energy,

commitment and mutual interest in community wellness had opened everyone's eyes and spirits for maintaining ongoing contact and working together. In fact, to facilitate this, a web site <http://www.passingthefire.ca> and a discussion forum has been set up for participants to stay in touch.

As Martha Parker writes in the summer 2005 Volunteer Vancouver newsletter Vantage Point, "My vision is a vision of abundance — where voluntary sector organizations are regarded as innovators, risk takers and community asset builders." I think this message conveys how most of us feel when we work as volunteers—especially when we take on tasks that may be new to us.

Overall, the Academy highlighted how we all need to take time for reflection and discussion, to seek out those who would be great mentoring resources, to nurture good leadership and support its ongoing development and plan for effective succession in our organizations and initiatives. That way we can continue to 'pass the fire'.

For more information about this event, contact Carol Coote, at

e-mail: coote@northwestel.net or telephone (867) 633-2692.

To learn about volunteer opportunities in the Yukon, visit the Yukon Volunteer Bureau at <http://www.volunteerbureau.yk.ca>.



Community leaders representing three generations from Yukon and B.C. attended the 2005 academy.

2007 Canada Winter Games reaches out to Yukon communities



Wherever you live in the Yukon: whether it's Watson Lake, Teslin, Beaver Creek, Haines Junction, Old Crow, Dawson City or anywhere in-between, you can be part of the 2007 Whitehorse Canada Winter Games (CWG). Bringing the spirit of the Games to all communities in the territory, the Community Relations Division, one of the 13 divisions that make up the Canada Games Host Society, works with communities to promote enthusiasm among residents, volunteers, visitors and participants in the Yukon and the North.

The spirit of the Games reached as far as Faro, a former mining community located in central Yukon, in early December. The community kicked off its first Canada Games Day as the 350 residents came together for an afternoon of festivities. Local participants were joined by teams that represented all of Canada's provinces and territories for a number of friendly and competitive events. The teams gathered points for their adoptive province or territory and celebrated their achievements with an awards ceremony.

"Most of the people we talked to seemed very excited about the possibility of showcasing their communities to the nation," said Teena Dickson, Community Relations Manager. "It is after all, a very rare opportunity and one that will leave a long-lasting impression."

The Canada Games will be held in Whitehorse from February 24th to March 10th, 2007. Leading up to this national event, the Community Relations through the Canada Games Day program is hoping to promote participation, physical activity, fun and goal setting within all of Yukon's communities. The program aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the country and the Games, and to help support communities in realizing the success behind initiatives before and after the Games. Initiatives like the Canada Games Day held in Faro are community-inspired and supported. The end result? Rural communities are able to celebrate the success of the Games and take pride in the opportunities they have provided to their residents.

In addition to the Games Day, Yukon schools are able to take part in the Mascot's Birthday, Adopt a Team and Adopt a Sport programs. Watch for these school and community activities that are set to run during fall 2006.

The Canada Games Host Society is preparing to host 3,600 athletes, coaches and managers as well as sponsors, officials, dignitaries and media. If you would like to volunteer please contact the Society toll free at 1-800-393-2007 for more information. Communities are also urged to contact the Society if they are interested in hosting a Games Day of their own.

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to empower regions to co-ordinate their economic planning and develop the capacity to see those plans through.

"This mushroom workshop is perfect because it has benefits to each of the regions," says Regional Economic Development Officer Tracey Johnson.

The fund, now in its second year, assists applicants to identify regional economic opportunities. It also supports capacity

development by funding needs assessments and training plans, both of which will hopefully be carried out before the next morel mushroom harvest presents itself in the Yukon.

"It's such a short season; a small window," says Parker. "They have to react to the industry very quickly."

First Nations such as Selkirk in Pelly, Kluane in Burwash Landing and Tr'ondek Hwech'in have already seen one or more morel rushes on their traditional territories and they have begun to draw from their experiences. At the workshop, they shared their knowledge with others.

Although profitable, the morel harvest can have considerable impact on the

land and the local people. The First Nations would like to see the regulation of the industry and the establishment of a standard marketing system with a single buyer for First Nations pickers, who should also be offered training in picking. A feasibility study was also suggested as a way to assess the economic benefits of morels thus far and to project the potential for future growth and development.

According to CYFN, the primary concern is the protection of the environment.

When visiting mushroom picker camps on First Nations lands in the Yukon, they must practice no-trace camping and respect the wishes and needs of its traditional occupants.

"They have to understand that from our First Nations' point of view, our lands are considered sacred places," says Parker.

For more information, please contact Khêyâwk Louise Parker, First Nations Business Development Co-ordinator, at telephone: (867) 667-8853 or 1-800-661-0408 (ext. 8853).



When they can be found, morels, a delicacy in North America and abroad, are profitable, but their growth is random and unpredictable.

Service Canada opens the door to improvements for Canadians

As one of the approximately nine million Canadians living in a rural or remote area of this country, you will be pleased to know that on September 14, 2005, the Government of Canada announced the official opening of Service Canada.

Service Canada brings together a network of 320 points of service in communities throughout the country; a national 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232) telephone service providing information about federal government programs and services; and online services available at <http://servicecanada.gc.ca>. These programs and services range from parental and pension benefits to matching employees with job seekers to applying for a passport and obtaining a social insurance number.

Living in a rural or remote community, it is often difficult to access government services, especially when distance is a factor. Making it easier for Canadians to obtain information on government programs and services is what Service Canada is all about.

Service Canada's staff are now trained and ready to provide a first point of contact for the Government of Canada. In fact, we already have in place a number of service improvements that Canadians can access right now.

- Canadians can apply for passports in 23 Service Canada locations across the country.
- In five pilot locations in Quebec and Alberta, individuals can now apply for and receive a Social Insurance Number (SIN) in one visit. A national roll-out of this service is planned for spring 2006.
- New online services are now available;
 - Individuals can apply online for Employment Insurance benefits, as well as file all the necessary reports;
 - Canadians who contribute to the Canada Pension Plan are able to view their statement of contribution online and access useful tools that can help them with their retirement plans; and
 - Canadian employers can take advantage of using the convenient online Record of Employment service to send employment information to government saving considerable time and effort.

This is just the beginning. Over the coming months, Canadians will continue to experience tangible improvements in service delivery. We are excited about our expanded service network and we look forward to serving you in the future. You can contact us when you want, where you want, and how you want - simply:

CALL: 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)
TTY/TDD: 1-800-465-7735

Web: <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca>

Service Canada Access Centres



Rural Team Yukon Members

Federal

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Canadian Heritage
Environment Canada
Health Canada
Human Resources and Social Development Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Industry Canada
Justice Canada
Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada
Public Works and Government Services
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Rural Secretariat

Territorial

Yukon Government
Department of Economic Development
Yukon Government
Department of Tourism and Culture
Yukon Government Youth Directorate

Local Government and Community Organizations

Association Franco-Yukonnaise
Association of Yukon Communities
Bringing Youth Towards Equality
Canada/Yukon Business Service Centre
Council of Yukon First Nations
Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon
Yukon College
Yukon Entrepreneurship Centre Society
Yukon Volunteer Bureau



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Or visit the Team on the Web at
http://www.rural.gc.ca/team/yt/yukon_e.phtml

Do you have an idea or story you would like to see included in the Yukon Rural Review?
We welcome your submissions for consideration.

Contact: Christina Prasad, Rural Secretariat
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