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**WOMEN EXPLORING TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY COURSE CONCLUDES**

WHITEHORSE – Nine women recently completed the first 16-week Women Exploring Trades and Technology (WETT) course offered at Yukon College.

The Government of Yukon, Yukon College and the Yukon Women in Trades and Technology developed this full-time course geared specifically for women as part of efforts to increase the representation of women in skilled trades training and employment, and in response to one of the recommendations from the *Women in Trades Update Report (2005)*.

“The women who have gone through this course now have formal skills training that can be applied in a workplace with a high demand for a specific skill-set,” said Elaine Taylor, minister responsible for the Women’s Directorate. “One of the special things about this course was that, in addition to trade skills, the participants also learned about workplace culture specific to women working in the trades.”

Four of the course participants have gone on to apply to pre-employment programs in the carpentry, electrical and welding trades.

“With so much new growth happening in the territory, it is important that local people are properly trained to fill the jobs,” Education Minister John Edzerza said. “Specialized courses like this one are responding to a real need that has been identified in the community.”

Other recent initiatives to increase women’s participation in the trades include continued support of the Yukon Women in Trades and Technology (YWITT) organization, annual Young Women Exploring Trades conferences, and a variety of hands-on workshops for Yukon women.

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