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**GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR SKILLED TRADES INCREASES APPRENTICESHIP**

WHITEHORSE – Government of Yukon investment in training and promotion for skilled trades in the Yukon is making a difference. This financial support, along with the participation of Yukon trade employers, has helped to increase apprenticeship registrations by more than 39 per cent in the territory over the past three years.

“In addition to promoting the skilled trades as a smart career option, the Government of Yukon works with Yukon employers as they develop skilled trades training opportunities in the workplace,” Education Minister Patrick Rouble said.

Through an agreement with the federal government, we provide the resources to enable trades training because that’s a smart investment in the long-term health of Yukon's economy, especially considering the skilled trade shortage we are currently experiencing in the territory and across Canada.”

In 2006-07, more than \$756,000 will be spent for trades apprentice coursework through the Canada-Yukon Skills Development contribution agreement. In addition, the Government of Yukon has allocated over \$417,000 through the Community Training Funds for trades and construction related programs above and beyond the trades courses delivered by Yukon College.

“These past few years we have seen a lot of growth in the number of apprentices registering with the Department of Education,” Brent Slobodin, assistant deputy minister at the Department of Education, said. “We are seeing an increase in the need for formal skilled trades training, we are also finding that our Community Training Funds fill an important informal training niche as well.”

“Through Community Training Funds, support for Yukon College and our agreements with the federal government, the Yukon government is providing the training that people need to take advantage of local economic opportunities and participate fully in their communities,” Rouble said.

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Attached: Information about apprenticeship in Yukon.

Contact:

Albert Petersen  
Cabinet Communications  
(867) 633-7961  
[albert.petersen@gov.yk.ca](mailto:albert.petersen@gov.yk.ca)

Clea Ainsworth  
Communications, Education  
(867) 393-7102  
[clea.ainsworth@gov.yk.ca](mailto:clea.ainsworth@gov.yk.ca)

**Backgrounder - Apprenticeship in Yukon**

- Yukon apprentices are among the best in Canada. Over the years our apprentices have achieved some of the highest pass rates on the Inter-Provincial Red Seal certification exams. Over 38 per cent of Yukon apprentices received 85 per cent or higher on their trade exams this year.
- Over 19 per cent of Yukon apprentices identify themselves as First Nation. Per capita, the Yukon is higher than most other jurisdictions in terms of First Nation participation in apprenticeship training programs.
- Apprenticeship involves in-school technical training combined with paid on-the-job training and work experience.
- Apprentices are paid while working in their apprenticeships. While away at school, most are eligible for various forms of support and financial assistance. Apprentices can “earn while they learn” and often complete their training debt-free.
- Completing a Yukon apprenticeship leads to certification as a journeyman. In most of the Yukon designated trades, apprentices can write an Inter-Provincial Red Seal examination giving them credentials recognized in most Canadian provinces and territories.
- There are 48 designated trades for apprenticeship in Yukon. Examples include: carpenter, sheet metal worker, power line technician, automotive service technician and parts person.
- Apprenticeship is a partnership between employers, employees and government. The Yukon Apprenticeship Advisory Board is comprised of representatives of employers and employees in Yukon trades advising the government on apprenticeship and certification matters.