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YUKON ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING FOR FIRST NATION EDUCATION INITIATIVES

WHITEHORSE – Education Minister Patrick Rouble has announced an increase of nearly a quarter million dollars in First Nation education-related funding under the 2007-08 budget, pending legislative approval.

“The government understands the integral roles that the Yukon Native Language Centre and the Council of Yukon First Nations play in ensuring our education system meets the needs of all Yukoners, including First Nation students,” Rouble said. “That’s why we are committing \$223,000 in new funding for First Nations education support this fiscal year.”

New funding includes \$53,000 that will cover increased operating costs of the Yukon Native Language Centre, while a further \$170,000 will cover the salaries of two education support workers within Council of Yukon First Nations.

“This new funding will help to build capacity in First Nation language instruction and knowledge, and it will also support the First Nations’ education communities,” Rouble added. “This increased funding demonstrates our continued commitment to developing meaningful relationships with First Nation governments and effective learning opportunities.”

Under the 2007-08 budget, once approved, the Yukon Native Language Centre will receive a total of \$405,000.

-30-

Attachment: List of government support for First Nation initiatives

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BACKGROUND:

Yukon government support for First Nation initiatives in the 2007-08 Budget

- Aboriginal Language Teachers in Yukon schools (including the staff at the Yukon Native Language Centre) - \$2,599,909
- First Nations Programs and Partnerships staff at the Department of Education - \$589,000
- Yukon Native Teacher Education Program (YNTEP) - \$540,000
- First Nation curriculum and resources development - \$500,255
- Council of Yukon First Nations (Yukon Native Language Centre) - \$405,000
- Cultural enhancement funding for Yukon schools - \$305,000
- Council of Yukon First Nations (Education Support staff) - \$170,000
- First Nations Elders in the School Program - \$50,000
- Counselling support worker for Champagne and Aishihik First Nations - \$15,000
- Youth counsellor for Teslin Tlingit Council - \$15,000
- First Nation orientation for Yukon teachers - \$20,240

Total Yukon government investment in First Nation education initiatives: \$5,209,404