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**INCREASED FUNDING SUPPORTS SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS**

WHITEHORSE – Health and Social Services Minister Brad Cathers today announced an additional \$50,000 for Yukon Food for Learning (YFFL), to supplement the school nutrition programs already funded by the organization.

The department currently provides annual funding of \$41,750, but this increase will give a cushion to the organization which is supporting 28 school food programs this year.

“Proper nutrition is important to cognitive development. When children are hungry, they are unable to learn because they’re thinking about how hungry they are. YFFL is there to help teachers help the kids learn,” Cathers said.

The Department of Education is supportive of and thankful for the efforts of YFFL. “This organization makes a positive difference in the lives of Yukon students,” Education Minister Patrick Rouble said.

Jim Tredger, YFFL chair and former principal of Jack Hulland Elementary, says the program can make a tremendous difference for children.

“The strong partnership with Health and Social Services, with this additional financial support, will allow Yukon Food for Learning Association to give schools the resources they need to ensure every student ‘eats right to be bright’.” Tredger said schools had requested \$110,000 for programs this year and the organization awarded \$78,000. “We now have the financial resources to provide additional supports,” Tredger added.

Food for Learning reviews school applications, including the Independent Learning Centre, twice a year. School programs vary from breakfast and lunch programs to snack programs, and involve many community members.

“We are proud to be part of this very important support system for Yukon children,” Cathers said.

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