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**YOUNG WOMEN EXPLORE TRADES AT CONFERENCE**

WHITEHORSE – Young women from across the territory are getting a hands-on introduction to careers in trades and technology today at a conference at Yukon College in Whitehorse.

The seventh annual Young Women Exploring Trades conference will see 120 grade eight girls complete projects in a number of different fields, including carpentry, electrical, glass working, plumbing, electronics, metal sculpture, painting and media.

“Women are playing an increasing role in the trades in Yukon and across the country,” Education Minister Patrick Rouble said. “We are pleased to support the conference and wish the young women an enjoyable learning experience.”

“By giving girls hands-on experience, this conference sends a positive message that there is a place for women in the trades,” Betty Irwin, executive director of Yukon Women in Trades and Technology (WITT), said.

The conference has proved extremely popular over the past seven years, and once again all available spaces have been filled. It is organized by WITT, an organization that instructs and promotes the trades to women of all ages, in partnership with the Department of Education, Women’s Directorate, Victoria Faulkner Women’s Centre and Yukon College.

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