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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND SUPPORTS COOPERATIVE INITIATIVES**

WHITEHORSE – The Government of Yukon Community Development Fund (CDF) has awarded \$140,146 of Tier 1 funding to a range of cooperative initiatives that aim at bringing Yukoners together to share ideas and cultivate stronger communities.

“I am increasingly impressed with the enthusiasm demonstrated by Yukoners who are working to nurture their communities,” Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon said. “This government is committed to maintaining the Community Development Fund, which supports cooperation and economic development in Yukon.”

The Yukon Volunteer Bureau/Yukon Development Education Centre, in partnership with Carcross/ Tagish First Nation, received \$19,593 for the training and implementation of community engagement techniques. With an emphasis on both capacity development and community development, this project focuses on building local expertise that increases Yukoners’ employability.

“This is an exciting opportunity for non-profit organizations and First Nations to collaborate and bring expertise to the Yukon and to build the skills of several organizations, simultaneously,” Angela Walkley, president of the Yukon Development Education Center, said. “CDF is enabling different groups to work together, with a common interest on common ground.”

The Dawson City Chamber of Commerce received \$19,243 to develop both a strategic and implementation plan. This project aims to engage a multitude of Dawson City businesses in planning for future growth. With a strong focus on community engagement and the strengthening of social networks, the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce aims to foster a model of cooperation and a shared vision for local economic growth.

“We are trying to cultivate a sound economic environment for people to want to do business here,” Dina Grenon, volunteer and member of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, said. “The CDF funding will help provide direction to our organization, which in turn will provide services and support to all Dawson City businesses.”

The primary goal of the Community Development Fund is to provide funding to Yukon groups, associations and organizations for projects and events that provide long-term benefit and value to Yukon communities.

The next intake deadline for CDF funding is May 15. This intake is for both Tier 1 (up to \$20,000) and Tier 2 (\$20,001 to \$75,000) projects.

Learn more about the Community Development Fund and how it may benefit your community by visiting the Yukon government website: [www.gov.yk.ca](http://www.gov.yk.ca).

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**Backgrounder:** Tier 1 Approved Projects

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## **BACKGROUNDER: TIER 1 APPROVED PROJECTS**

**Alsek Music Festival Society** received up to \$845 to purchase plastic barriers and recycling bins. Contact Bruce Binder at (867) 634-2107.

**Champagne/Aishihik First Nation** received up to \$19,632 to repair the Haines Junction youth centre to conform to the National Building Code and make a healthy/safe space for youth activities. Contact Rick Mazur at (867) 634-4220.

**Dawson City Arts Society** received up to \$14,000 for a Jigsaw Puzzle Art School Promotion to promote Yukon as a destination home for the arts and culture, specifically Dawson City and the KIAC School of Visual Arts. Contact Greg Hakonson at (867) 993-5005.

**Dawson City Chamber of Commerce** received up to \$19,243 to develop a strategic plan and implementation plan. Contact Dina Grenon at (867) 993-5274.

**Freedom Trails Therapeutic Riding Association** received up to \$2,098 to attend the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association spring conference for recertification of instructors. Contact Judy Fortin at (867) 633-5911.

**Klondyke Goldpanning Association** received up to \$17,865 to purchase portable bleachers and picnic tables. Contact Leah Adam at (867) 993-5575.

**Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation** received up to \$11,405 to teach youth how to build and use Northern Tutchone traditional hunting technology. Contact Dawn Charlie at (867) 863-5576.

**Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation** received up to \$8,350 to conduct a Gwitchin workshop to provide FN youth instruction in drum making and drumming traditions. Contact Glenda Tetlich at (867) 966-3261.

**Youth Association of Watson Lake** received up to \$10,000 for up-grades to theatre equipment for the community of Watson Lake (lighting, sound & technical equipment). Contact Sue Rudd at (867) 536-2701.

**Yukon Historical & Museums Association** received up to \$17,115 to undertake a strategic planning exercise to determine where the organization is going over the next three years. Contact Rebecca Jansen at (867) 667-4704.

**Yukon Volunteer Bureau/Yukon Dev. Education Centre** received up to \$19,593 for training and implementation of community engagement techniques in areas of identification, planning, decision making and evaluation for sustainable and effective community development. Contact Angela Walkley at (867) 393-4444.