

FOR RELEASE #06-030

February 15, 2006

**YUKON STUDENTS EMBARK ON THEIR OWN YUKON QUEST CHALLENGE**

WHITEHORSE - The Department of Education's Yukon Quest Student Challenge website is using innovative assisted learning techniques to bring a Yukon tradition into the classroom.

The Yukon Quest Student Challenge began Saturday, Feb, 11 to coincide with the beginning of the world famous 1,000 mile sled dog race from Fairbanks, Alaska to Whitehorse, Yukon. Students in the Yukon and across North America will be incorporating the "toughest sled dog race in the world" into their daily lessons when they download or post items to the website.

"Students and their teachers can undertake a variety of different learning exercises, all along the theme of our very own Yukon Quest," Cathi Dunham, a Selkirk Elementary teacher and a 20-year volunteer for the Yukon Quest, said. "We have interactive maps that students can follow during the race, vocabulary lists, math exercises, media updates and a discussion page where students can post messages and respond to each other."

"Incorporating a current and cultural event such as the Yukon Quest into our curriculum is a great way to make classroom learning more relevant," Education Minister John Edzerza said. "The Yukon Quest Student Challenge website is a great way to engage students and to empower young people to succeed."

To join the Department of Education's Yukon Quest Student Challenge website and to follow the dogs go to: <http://dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/yukonquest/>.

-30-

Contact:

Peter Carr  
Cabinet Communications Advisor  
(867) 667-8688  
[peter.carr@gov.yk.ca](mailto:peter.carr@gov.yk.ca)

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

Cam Good  
Technology Assisted Learning Consultant  
(867) 667-8876  
[cam.good@yesnet.yk.ca](mailto:cam.good@yesnet.yk.ca)

Cathi Dunham  
Teacher, Selkirk Elementary  
(867) 667-3688  
[cathi.dunham@yesnet.yk.ca](mailto:cathi.dunham@yesnet.yk.ca)