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**YUKON LIBRARIES RECOGNIZE CANADIAN LIBRARY WEEK**

WHITEHORSE – Canadian Library Week is underway and Yukon public libraries encourage residents to drop in and experience a great learning and entertainment resource in the heart of their community.

“Reading is one of life’s great pleasures,” Community Services Minister Glenn Hart said. “Yukon libraries offer a wide range of reading materials for research and recreational reading as well as Internet services and meeting places for community activities. Libraries are important local resources that serve a wide range of community needs.”

The Yukon government supports public libraries through the central branch in Whitehorse and 14 branches in communities, working closely with community library boards, other libraries, and literary and literacy groups and similar organizations.

“Libraries are actually often the focal point of community building,” Barbara Clubb, Canadian Library Association president said. “Libraries are open to everyone in the community, regardless of age, religion, social status, race, gender or language. We offer the opportunity to learn and grow, personally and professionally. Canadian Library Week gives us the opportunity to highlight these roles.”

“Yukon public libraries are part of the life-long learning philosophy,” Julie Ourom, manager of Yukon public libraries said. “We have people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, reading levels and interests visiting our libraries every day. Some are doing research for educational needs, others are here to learn about something that interests them and still others are here for the pure joy of reading. Our libraries fill all of these needs.”

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