



*Every Student,  
Every Day*

VICTORIA GOLD YUKON STUDENT ENCOURAGEMENT SOCIETY

FOR RELEASE  
May 28, 2024

## **Yukon schools and community organizations receive \$400,000 for student attendance projects**

*This is a joint news release between the Government of Yukon and the Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society's Every Student, Every Day funding program.*

A total of \$400,000 in support has been awarded to 31 projects across the Yukon through the *Every Student, Every Day* fund, with support from the Government of Yukon.

For the 2024–25 school year, Yukon schools, school councils and community organizations will implement 31 projects designed to help increase student attendance. These projects directly aim to eliminate obstacles, enhance student engagement in learning and foster a stronger sense of belonging within school communities.

Established in 2012, *Every Student, Every Day* has donated over \$2.25 million dollars to directly support more than 240 Yukon student attendance projects. Funding is raised primarily from annual fundraising events and donations from individual and corporate donors from Yukon and around the world. This year, *Every Student, Every Day* has increased its funding to \$300,000. The Government of Yukon has also increased its contribution to \$100,000, along with continuing to provide administrative support to coordinate with participating schools and non-governmental organizations. This year's funding commitment is the largest ever and will support communities in addressing student attendance challenges in creative ways.

A complete list of this year's funded projects is included in the related information section below.

"This initiative is dedicated to supporting innovative projects that improve results for all Yukon students by encouraging attendance and engagement. Our government is deeply committed to advancing education through a collaborative, community-led approach. We're proud to increase our contribution to the *Every Student, Every Day* funding program and look forward to seeing these projects empower students on their educational paths."

– **Minister of Education Jeanie McLean**

"With our increased funding and additional support from Yukon Government, we are able to continue to support schools, communities and First Nations to tackle the issues that hinder

school attendance and, ultimately, student success. We have seen increases in the need for supports for projects that build connections between home and school and make students feel welcome – projects that are culturally relevant and/or related to mental health, learning needs, arts, culture, technology & trade skills. We are excited for this positive momentum to continue growing.”

– **President of the Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society Tara Christie**

### **Quick facts**

- *Every Student, Every Day* is a project funding program operated by the Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society (the “Society”), a registered Yukon society and a registered Canadian charity.
- A committee of Department of Education staff and volunteers representing the Society selected the successful projects and the funds will be implemented in the 2024–25 school year.

### **Related information**

- [Every Student, Every Day 2024–25 projects](#)
- [Every Student, Every Day](#)
- [How you can help Yukon students](#)

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## ***Every Student, Every Day* Community Projects funded for 2024–25**

### **CENTRE SCOLAIRE SECONDAIRE COMMUNAUTAIRE MERCIER - WHITEHORSE**

Mountain Bikes \$5,000

- CSSC Mercier will purchase several bikes, which will provide bicycles for students who don't own their own and allow them to participate in biking excursions with their classmates.

### **DEL VAN GORDER SCHOOL COUNCIL - FARO**

AST/STTEAM Resources \$16,220

- This *Every Student, Every Day* funding will allow the school council to acquire a laser cutter for the school, along with necessary materials for both the laser cutter and their existing 3D printer setup. Having these resources on-site will ensure that students can continue to express themselves creatively while aligning with the ADST curriculum, even in the absence of a full-time ADST or elective teacher.

### **ÉCOLE EMILIE-TREMBLAY – WHITEHORSE**

Boules de Feu \$10,250

- Boules de Feu is an active living program offering cross-country skiing and running activities that promote well-being and where students of all levels learn in a positive environment. This program increases students' sense of belonging to the school and community, offers experiential teaching based on First Nations approaches to education. Students' readiness to learn increases significantly when their level of weekly physical activity increases.

### **ÉCOLE WHITEHORSE ELEMENTARY – WHITEHORSE**

STTEAM Program Materials \$12,000

- Funding to allow École Whitehorse Elementary to purchase quality materials and tools for their Arts and Design Studio. This studio aims to unlock intrinsic motivation, imagination, creativity and play that creates authentic learning situations that support social emotional learning and equips students with the necessary competencies and agency to confidently face their future.

### **ELIJAH SMITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – WHITEHORSE**

Neuro-diverse and inclusive space and Outdoor cultural learning space \$19,000

- These projects support a neuro-diverse and inclusive space at Elijah Smith Elementary school that supports regulation and relationship building for equity-deserving students. Elijah Smith Elementary school have also, in partnership with KDFN and YFNED, developed an outdoor cultural learning space to bring traditional teachings to their students. This *Every Student, Every Day* funding will allow Elijah Smith to further develop this space and expand opportunities to host more students and elders.

### **ELIZA VAN BIBBER SCHOOL – PELLY CROSSING**

Come on in! \$14,650

- Eliza Van Bibber will be receiving funding for several initiatives to improve attendance such as improvements to common areas to improve community presence in the school. This includes photos in common areas that will showcase student learning and class trips as well as adding flexible seating in the foyer to give students a place to gather and build community and decrease the number of students who leave the school during lunch.

### **FH COLLINS SECONDARY SCHOOL – WHITEHORSE**

Audio/Visual Equipment \$24,935

- This project is to purchase equipment for state of the art audio/visual equipment to allow students to create high quality projects to communicate their learning. Senior students in the STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics) program will become leaders while using the technology by collaborating with teachers to instruct fellow students throughout the school how to use the equipment.

### **GADZOOSDAA STUDENT RESIDENCE – YUKON**

Attendance Initiatives \$7,500

- This project includes various initiatives to improve attendance including funding for students to participate in extracurricular activities and to receive training and certification in their personal areas of interest.

### **GOLDEN HORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – WHITEHORSE**

Outdoor Cultural Space \$11,858

- Funding to purchase a wall-tent and platform to act as an outdoor Cultural Classroom for Golden Horn Elementary School students to enhance Yukon First Nations ways of knowing and doing and to support student attendance.

### **GREY MOUNTAIN PRIMARY – WHITEHORSE**

Mountain bikes and Family connection events \$10,000

- Grey Mountain Primary will be purchasing several bikes to provide for students who don't have their own to enable full participation in classroom cycling excursions. The school will also host "Family Connection" events throughout the school year to build relationships and connections between families and the school. Students are more likely to come to school when their families feel comfortable and connected with the school team.

### **HIDDEN VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – WHITEHORSE**

Camping nights \$11,860

- On site camping nights for primary classes (grade 2-3) where students and families have opportunities to participate in overnight camping experiences while building their

outdoor skills in a safe environment close to the school with access to needed amenities. The primary goal of this project is to increase HVES student engagement and attendance by creating opportunities for all students to participate in outdoor learning activities. This project will purchase camping gear to reduce barriers to students participating due to lack of gear.

#### **INDIVIDUAL LEARNING CENTRE – WHITEHORSE**

Attendance Initiatives \$11,910

- Initiatives to support Individual Learning Centre students in all aspects of their lives. This funding will go towards things to improve student wellness, from CGC passes and shower supplies to emergency funding for clothes and glasses, and potlatch gifts for students' families. *Every Student, Every Day* funding will also support students to get certifications that they need to successfully get part-, full-time or summer employment.

#### **J.V. CLARK SCHOOL – MAYO**

Equipment for Older Students \$25,000

- This project will allow J.V. Clark School to purchase equipment that offers students opportunities for learning and experiences that they find compelling enough to want to attend school more frequently and augment career choices. This will include purchasing equipment related to horticulture, sound and video engineering, and trades and business.

#### **JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – WATSON LAKE**

Sports and experiential learning activities \$15,000

- To help improve attendance, students will learn the physical skills, rules, and fundamental strategies to participate in all sports through a variety of skill-related activities, lead up game, low organization games and eventually the sports themselves. The funding will go towards purchasing the necessary equipment, training, and skill development programming for common sports, and traditional activities.

#### **LDAY CENTRE FOR LEARNING – YUKON**

Literacy Tutoring & Literacy Camps \$10,000

- Funding for Literacy Tutoring which takes place after school, in the evenings, and on weekends during the school year for students who otherwise could not afford the costs. This funding will also go toward funding students to participate in LDAY's literacy intensives where learners can access a trained literacy expert for several tutoring sessions during a one-month period. Literacy tutoring is available to students of all ages and is offered in person and on-line.

#### **PORTER CREEK SECONDARY SCHOOL – WHITEHORSE**

Paddling for Punctuality \$24,060

- Outdoor leadership initiative that will develop students' outdoor leadership skills while achieving qualifications in Whitehorse Rescue and wilderness first aid. *Every Student, Every Day* funds will be used to purchase equipment and student certification fees.

Jam Space \$5,000

- Funding for a shared music space for students at Porter Creek Secondary School. With the funding requested, PCSS students plan to generate a student-led 'Jam Space' set up in a portable building attached to the school. Instruments and sound gear would be purchased so that students could engage in a positive shared music playing experience during lunch, breaks and after school.

The High School Fly-Fishing Academy \$3,000

- In partnership with members across the Whitehorse high schools, this project will create an opportunity for students to learn and experience fly-fishing skills on the land.

### **ROBERT SERVICE SCHOOL – DAWSON CITY**

Attendance Data, STTEAM Project & First Nation Art \$15,000

- Robert Service School intends to develop attendance data communication materials to share with the school community. This funding will also go toward expanding the STTEAM program for grades 4-12 and enable students to use STTEAM skills to create First Nation art for display in the school.

### **ROBOTICS NORTH SOCIETY – YUKON**

First Lego League \$53,964.32

- This funding will provide comprehensive support for schools to participate in the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Program, which is geared toward high school students who are 14-18 years of age, First Lego League Challenge Level (ages 8-14) and Explore Level (ages k-4). First Lego League programs help youth to build a strong foundation for computational thinking and engineering skill development with in-classroom and /or after-school curriculum that connects students to the world through science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). FIRST Tech Challenge registration includes curriculum for educators and facilitators to help facilitate team sessions designed to expand greatly on engineering, coding and community involvement through real-world problem solving.

### **ST. ELIAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL – HAINES JUNCTION**

Metals Club \$16,000

- St. Elias Community School will establish a Metal Club that will provide greater access for students to learn how to weld and do metal work. These activities appeal to some students who otherwise struggle with attendance issues, operating the program after school and during lunch will give these students motivation to attend schools. This funding will go towards tools, safety equipment and other necessary supplies to provide a well-equipped shop.

### **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL – WHITEHORSE**

Wellness and gym equipment \$18,000.00

- This project will support piloting a new Wellness PE program that will provide a safe space for girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ students to explore movement and build self-esteem and

confidence, without the perceived barriers and the competitive atmosphere associated with most physical education classes. In this protected environment, the focus of the course will move away from this traditional model, and instead build students' mental and physical health through movement, self-acceptance, and community. *Every Student, Every Day* funds will also go towards replacing outdated and worn-out gym equipment with more modern, versatile, and inclusive exercise machines that cater to a diverse range of physical fitness needs and abilities.

#### **TAKHINI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – WHITEHORSE**

emPOWERing Kids \$12,000

- Learning a trade is important for the practical skills, problem solving abilities and confidence earned as kids learn and master new skills. This project will teach students age-appropriate trade skills through fun, hands-on opportunities for learning by purchasing a variety tools and construction kits.

#### **TANTALUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL - CARMACKS**

Attendance Initiatives \$14,928

- Tantalus community school will be using their *Every Student, Every Day* funding for after school activities, school trips to Whitehorse, and to create a comfortable space in the school for high school students to spend their breaks, keeping them at the school.

#### **YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT CENTRE – WHITEHORSE**

Arts Programming \$13,150

- Educational programming at the Youth Achievement Centre is rooted in the First Peoples Principles of Learning, which recognizes the important role that Indigenous knowledge plays in learning, that learning must focus on relationships and connectedness, and that learning is needed for the well-being of self. This funding will help to provide access to culturally relevant, supportive, and enriching arts programming to support Indigenous students in learning through the lens of these Principles.