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Victoria Gold and Yukon government partner on student attendance project

WHITEHORSE—Victoria Gold Corporation and the Yukon Department of Education have partnered to develop a program to improve student attendance.

"Students who consistently attend school tend to be more successful," Education Minister Scott Kent said. "This partnership supports our vision for all Yukon learners to possess the knowledge and skills needed to live meaningful, productive and rewarding lives."

Victoria Gold Corporation and the Department of Education will both contribute \$15,000, and Victoria Gold is planning a fundraiser to contribute additional funds.

"Victoria Gold is very pleased to align with the government on this important issue," Victoria Gold president and CEO John McConnell said. "Helping young people develop good habits and a sense of accountability early will provide them with a solid foundation for success in their future."

"We take a keen interest in students in schools throughout Yukon today because they will be among our workforce when Eagle Gold begins operations in 2015 and onwards," McConnell added. "We encourage students and parents to visit the Victoria Gold booth at the Mining and Exploration Discovery Camp during Mining Week for information on exciting employment opportunities available right here at home in the Yukon mining sector."

"The partnership between the Department of Education and the Victoria Gold Corporation will strengthen our ongoing work to improve student engagement and support student success," Kent added. "This partnership speaks to the fact that attendance is a community issue and solutions need to be found both inside and outside the schools."

The partners will work with students, educators and stakeholders to develop a plan that they expect to implement for the 2012-13 school year.

For more information about Yukon Mining and Geology Week, visit <u>www.yukonminers.ca</u>.

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