

# Every Student, Every Day

VICTORIA GOLD YUKON STUDENT ENCOURAGEMENT SOCIETY

## THANK YOU

The Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society volunteer Board of Directors extends its sincere thanks to our valued community champions for their ongoing support of our *Every Student, Every Day* fund to raise awareness and funds to help address student attendance challenges in schools and communities across the territory.

A very special thank you as well to the Yukon Government and the Hon. Doug Graham, Minister of Education, for his tribute to our efforts in the Yukon Legislative Assembly on April 27, 2016 as part of Yukon Education Week.

"As it is Education Week this week, I'm honoured to rise today to pay tribute to the Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society's *Every Student, Every Day* initiative, which works to raise awareness about, and funds for, grassroots student attendance programs across the territory. Five very committed volunteers lead *Every Student, Every Day*, and since the fund was established in the fall of 2012, they have raised and distributed over \$200,000 to support community-driven student attendance programs in our Yukon schools and communities.

From Old Crow to Watson Lake and from Ross River to Riverdale, 28 student attendance projects have been funded, and yesterday, another round of successful projects were awarded funding for the 2016-17 school year. I'm very proud that the Department of Education partners with the *Every Student, Every Day* team to administer the application process in Yukon schools. We appreciate the strong and innovative partnership we have with the Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society and the many industry and community champions that come together each and every year to support our territory's students and help them stay engaged in our schools.

The private sector – particularly the mining, service and supply industries – have been steadfast partners from the very beginning. I would like to take the opportunity to make special mention of the Victoria Gold Corporation; Air North, Yukon's Airline; and CKRW, The Rush for their acknowledgment of student attendance challenges in the territory and their commitment to addressing them. The *Every Student, Every Day* initiative is making tangible and positive attendance rate increases. It is helping to alleviate absenteeism through the programs it has funded with an approach that encourages individual educators and community groups to develop and implement projects that reflect the needs of their unique students.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the volunteer team that tirelessly leads the *Every Student, Every Day* initiative each year: Tara Christie, Amanda Leslie, Deb Ryan, Shena Shaw and Lenora Hobbs. I would also be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I didn't mention my colleague, the Minister of Highways and Public Works, who was Minister of Education when this program began. I take the opportunity to thank all of these people for the wonderful achievements.

I would also like to thank John McConnell, CEO of Victoria Gold, who, with my colleague, Minister Kent, initially discussed back in May 2012 the vital importance of helping Yukon students graduate and the links between success in school and success in life. From conversations such as those, *Every Student, Every Day* was born.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society and its *Every Student, Every Day* initiative. It is through partnerships such as these that we are able to ensure our students are receiving the very most from their education here in the territory. Thank you very much."



[www.everystudenteveryday.ca](http://www.everystudenteveryday.ca)