

Every Student, Every Day

VICTORIA GOLD YUKON STUDENT ENCOURAGEMENT SOCIETY

FOR RELEASE
April 17, 2014

***Every Student, Every Day* Fund Distributes Over \$46,000 to Help Address Student Attendance Challenges in the Yukon**

Whitehorse, Yukon - The Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society (VGYSES), with the in-kind support of Yukon Education, is pleased to announce that seven projects received funding this week through the society's *Every Student, Every Day* initiative to help increase student attendance in Yukon schools and communities.

"This is the second consecutive year we have raised and distributed funds to support grassroots, locally generated projects that are providing solutions to assist in our students' academic and lifelong success," said VGYSES President Kelly Arychuk. "*Every Student, Every Day* extends its sincere congratulations to all the successful applicants and its appreciation to Yukon Education for its role in promoting the fund and its application process throughout the territory."

Every Student, Every Day was established in the fall of 2012. The non-profit, volunteer-driven initiative supports community-based projects to address student attendance challenges in the Yukon. The initiative raises funds that individual schools, First Nations and communities can apply for to develop and implement innovative, local solutions that help engage students and address barriers impeding their attendance at school.

"The partnership between Yukon Education and the Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society highlights how our community can come together to support our territory's students," Education Minister Elaine Taylor said. "We look forward to the continued success of *Every Student, Every Day* and working with the society to support student achievement for years to come."

The seven successful projects were submitted earlier this month to Yukon Education, which administers the fund in Yukon schools on behalf of the society. The successful applicants received a combined total of \$46,123 towards their respective student attendance projects, which was raised last October at *Every Student, Every Day's* annual fundraising event.

Last year, the VGYSES raised and distributed \$50,000, which supported student attendance projects across the territory. Yukon Education is currently evaluating their success.

Once again this year, a committee made up of representatives from VGYSES, Yukon Education, Yukon Health and Social Services and the Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards and Committees reviewed the project submissions and selected the successful applicants based on criteria developed by VGYSES and Yukon Education.

The third annual *Every Student, Every Day* fundraiser will take place on Saturday, October 4, 2014 in Whitehorse and the event's proceeds will establish next year's fund.

For more information about the Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society and the *Every Student, Every Day* initiative, please visit www.everystudenteveryday.ca.

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Please refer to the enclosed Backgrounder for specifics about this year's seven successful Every Student, Every Day projects.

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Backgrounder

For the second consecutive year, the Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society and Yukon Education invited schools, Yukon First Nations and communities to submit applications for funding to support projects through the Society's *Every Student, Every Day* to help address student attendance challenges in the territory.

On April 10, a committee made up of representatives from VGYSES, Yukon Education, Yukon Health and Social Services and the Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards selected the following seven (7) proposals. A total of \$46,123 was awarded this year:

Applicant	Strategy	Award
F.H. Collins Secondary	<i>Improving School Attendance Through Positive Alternative Monitoring and Mentoring.</i> An initiative to modify student behaviours through attendance monitoring and counselling.	\$2,600.00
Jack Hulland Elementary	<i>Home and School Support Liaison</i> to provide direct support to families facing attendance issues. The program's support person is a qualified professional who knows the families and has a strong connection to the school community	\$14,203.90
Porter Creek Secondary	<i>Morning Breakfast program/Evening Café</i> will work in conjunction with the Breakfast for Learning program. Students will prepare breakfasts for themselves and for others for an honorarium. This strategy is focused towards chronic non-attenders.	\$13,000.00
Selkirk Elementary School	<i>Suzuki at Selkirk.</i> Violin classes will provide a high-interest activity to motivate at-risk students to come to, and stay, at school and gain music skills. Violin classes will be both one-on-one and in groups for 24 weeks.	\$4,320.00
Vanier Catholic School	<i>Attendance Counselling Fund</i> that school counsellors can access to help them provide students with bus passes, alarm clocks, and other items that can help address barriers to attending school.	\$1,000.00
Johnson Elementary	<i>iPads for Middle Grades</i> will incorporate 20 iPads into learning activities to help students remain focused and engaged in their learning. This will also help prepare students for the integrated, self-directed learning approach at the school, which relies heavily on technology.	\$5,000.00
Watson Lake Secondary	<i>Rewards for Improved Attendance</i> through school-wide events and incentives such as trips, ski passes and items for students who are improving their attendance at school.	\$6,000.00

For more information about the VGYSES *Every Student, Every Day* fund, please visit www.everystudenteveryday.ca