



Community



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ESTABLISHED IN 2012, IN LIGHT OF CONCERNING ATTENDANCE RATES IN BOTH RURAL AND WHITEHORSE SCHOOLS, *Every Student, Every Day*

works with Yukon Government and local businesses to raise awareness and funds to help address student attendance challenges throughout the territory.

Enter Old Crow, the Yukon's only fly-in community is home to 300 and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, whose citizens have lived in the area for millennia.

With less than two hours of daylight through much of December and January and sunlight all day throughout June, the Yukon's common, traditional school calendar does not always align with the community's economic and social reliance on a seasonal round of traditional activities on the land including hunting, trapping, fishing and harvesting.

"One of the most simple and effective applications for funding we received, since our charity's inception, was submitted in our first year of operation and came from Old Crow's Chief Zzeh

Gittlit School," says Tara Christie, President of the Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society; the volunteer-driven society that operates *Every Student, Every Day*.

"Old Crow's school was requesting a mere \$1600 to purchase an alarm clock for each of its students as the common school schedule was not always in sync with the community's traditional and cultural clock," continues Christie, who is also the President of Banyan Gold Corp. "What opened our eyes and reassured us we were on the right track with our volunteer efforts, was that the ability to support grass-roots student attendance initiatives reflecting the needs of individual classrooms and communities, as opposed to one approach for the entire territory, can make a tangible, positive impact on student attendance."

Old Crow is by no means the exception. In 2012, students in Whitehorse schools were missing an average of more than 40 school days within a 180-day school calendar and rural students over 50 each year.

"We know the issues challenging regular student attendance in the territory are complex and intertwined and involve our entire community to help solve. In 2012, as we looked ahead to the hundreds of employees our Eagle Gold Mine would need during construction and operations, we knew we had to do something as community partners to help get our Yukon students through high school successfully enabling them to access economic opportunities and rewarding career paths." John McConnell, President & CEO, Victoria Gold Corp.

Every Student, Every Day



In that initial year, *Every Student, Every Day* awarded funds totaling \$50,000 to 11 student attendance projects across the territory. Since that time, over 70 student attendance projects have received over \$365,000.00 in financial support from *Every Student, Every Day* and this past fall, the charity raised a further, and staggering, \$175,000.00, at its annual fundraising gala event in Whitehorse.

"This spring, *Every Student, Every Day* will have \$100,000.00 to distribute to more community-designed and led projects and we encourage all school administrators, educators, Yukon First Nations and community organizations to develop an initiative to help increase student attendance and apply for funding," says Christie. "Together, we can help our territory's students succeed at school and subsequently in life."

Starting January 21, the application process to fund student attendance projects in the 2019-2020 school year will open, in partnership with Yukon Education, which supports *Every Student, Every Day* with a funding match up to \$25,000.00 per year. The application deadline will close March 6 and the funding will be awarded in late April.

To learn more about *Every Student, Every Day*, and to access the application form, please visit www.everystudenteveryday.ca or find the charity on Facebook.



Tara Christie: President of the Victoria Gold Yukon Student Encouragement Society and Banyan Gold Corp. on site at the Eagle Gold Mine.



ABOUT VICTORIA GOLD AND THE EAGLE GOLD MINE

The Eagle Gold Mine, currently under construction, is part of Victoria's 100-per-cent owned Dublin Gulch gold property located approximately 375 kilometres north of Whitehorse and 85 kilometres north, northeast of the Village of Mayo within the traditional territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun. The property is accessible by road year-round and is within Yukon Energy's electrical grid.

The Eagle Gold Mine has received all major permits for construction and operations, completed the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) process and mutually created and implements the *Comprehensive Cooperation and Benefits Agreement* with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun.