



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SALMONPALOOZA FOR WHITEHORSE-BASED INDIGENOUS FAMILIES

Whitehorse - The Yukon First Nation Education Directorate has once again partnered with Second Harvest and Agriculture Canada Surplus Food Rescue Program to provide urban-based Indigenous families with roughly 30,000 pounds of wild-caught B.C. salmon. YFNED will be distributing the salmon at the Takhini Arena on June 15-17 from 11:30 am-6:30 pm to all Whitehorse-based Indigenous families with children between the ages of 0-19.

Dubbed “Salmonpalooza,” this is the second time in less than a year that YFNED’s Nutrition Program has provided salmon to Whitehorse-based families. In addition to salmon, they have distributed Winter Break Hampers, bison and salmon at various times in Whitehorse and the communities. Funded through Jordan’s Principle, the Nutrition Program will also be providing snacks and a hot meal service this fall to all schools in the Yukon to ensure Indigenous children have equitable access to healthy food.

“We are so happy to be able to provide this vital and traditional food source to our families,” says YFNED Executive Director, Melanie Bennett. “Optimal learning happens when we have healthy, happy families and YFNED’s wrap-around approach to education includes providing nutritious food to our kids.”

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BACKGROUND

- YFNED funds their Rural and Urban Nutritional Service through Jordan's Principle. This provides ongoing resources to ensure access to nutritional/traditional food, wages for cooks, equipment, and freight costs. Jordan's Principle aims to ensure Indigenous children access equity in public services.
- YFNED promotes an Indigenous-based, family-led, and holistic model for education. We believe a wrap-around model of services is the best for our First Nations students. We have 12 First Nation Education Advocates working in schools and with families; a Mobile Therapeutic Unit (Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology, Mental Wellness, Audiology, Optometry), the Urban and Rural Jordan's Principle Nutrition Service, a soon-to-launch Early Years program, as well as Framework Negotiation technicians and educational analysts.
- YFNED is a new organization created in 2020 with the aim to improve the outcomes of First Nation students in the territory. The 2009 and 2019 Auditor General's Report *Kindergarten through Grade 12 Education in Yukon – Department of Education* offered an alarmingly poor assessment of Yukon Government's ability to meet the needs of First Nation learners in the territory. Created by the Chief's Committee on Education (CCOE), YFNED provides multi-tiered solutions to these long-unaddressed gaps and failures.

Related Links:

Yukon First Nation Education Directorate www.yfned.ca/

Second Harvest: <https://secondharvest.ca/>

Food Surplus Rescue Program: <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/08/surplus-food-rescue-program.html>