



**YUKON
FIRST NATION
EDUCATION
DIRECTORATE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 23, 2020

**YUKON FIRST NATION EDUCATION DIRECTORATE GIFTS OVER 750 CHRISTMAS HAMPERS TO
WHITEHORSE-BASED INDIGENOUS FAMILIES**

Whitehorse – Over the next four weeks, the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate will be distributing over 750 Christmas Hampers to all Whitehorse-based Indigenous families with children between 0-18 years of age. The hampers are an initiative of the Jordan’s Principle Nutritional Service of YFNED and contain the ingredients to make several holiday feasts.

“These hampers help Indigenous families put healthy, delicious food on the table over the holidays,” says Melanie Bennett, Executive Director of YFNED. “Ensuring our students have access to healthy food is essential in our holistic, wrap-around approach to education.”

Hampers will be distributed between November 23 and December 17 at selected times from Whitehorse public schools. People interested in receiving a hamper need to register online at an EVENTBRITE link that is listed on the YFNED website (www.yfned.ca) or on the YFNED Facebook page. Principals, teachers, parents and YFNED Education Advocates will be working together to make this generous program a success.

YFNED is also making hampers available to First Nation families in the communities – but they will be distributed through each individual First Nation.

YFNED’s Mission Statement is for unified control over First Nations education so we can empower our people in our ways of knowing and prepare our children to be active participants in the current world.

-30-

Contact:

Katharine Sandiford
Communications Director
Yukon First Nations Education Directorate
Katharine.sandiford@yfned.ca
(867) 333-4011

BACKGROUND

- YFNED recently announced the extension of their Rural Nutritional Service through Jordan's Principle for the next two years with an investment to the communities of **\$6.7 million dollars**. YFNED and CYFN worked together this past year to create this service, which is now housed at YFNED. This will provide 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 Nation students. We currently 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), as well as the Urban and Rural Jordan's Principle Nutrition Service.
- 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

2019 Auditor General's Report: https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/yuk_201906_e_43400.html