



YUKON FIRST NATION EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 6, 2020

YUKON FIRST NATION EDUCATION DIRECTORATE DISTRIBUTES 83,000 POUNDS OF BISON AND SALMON TO THE COMMUNITIES

Whitehorse – Over the past week, the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate coordinated the delivery of roughly 83,000 pounds of frozen bison and salmon to all Yukon First Nation communities. A-1 Delivery and PNW are trucking the food to each First Nation, who are then distributing among families. YFNED partnered with Second Harvest and Agriculture Canada’s Surplus Food Rescue Program to provide this contribution of free, healthy food.

“This influx of bison and salmon into the communities allows many families to put food on the table,” says Melanie Bennett, Executive Director of YFNED. “Ensuring First Nations students have access to healthy food is essential in our holistic approach to education.”

In addition, YFNED is pleased to announce 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’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.

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BACKGROUND

Second Harvest is the largest food rescue organization in Canada and a global thought leader on food recovery. Working across the supply chain – from farm to retail – they capture surplus food before it ends up in landfill and has a negative environmental impact. Since 1985, Second Harvest has redirected more than 172 million pounds of food and prevented over 262 million pounds of greenhouse gas equivalents from entering our atmosphere.

Agriculture Canada’s Surplus Food Rescue Program facilitates the purchase and redistribution of perishable food to communities across Canada, with 10 percent or more being directed to northern communities. Good, surplus food that would otherwise be at risk of going to waste during the ongoing pandemic will be matched and distributed to communities across the country, including local charities and non-profits such as shelters, community groups and meal programs.

Related Links:

Yukon First Nation Education Directorate www.yfned.ca

Second Harvest: www.secondharvest.ca

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