



**For immediate release
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Yukoners give generously in support of our hospitals at the 2016 Northwestel Festival of Trees

Whitehorse – The Yukon Hospital Foundation’s 2016 Northwestel Festival of Trees inspired individuals and businesses across the territory to give generously to quality health care, resulting in one of the most successful years in the event’s history.

With the support of Yukoners, the festival’s big finale – the live tree auction at the Alkan Air Grand Ball – alone raised more than \$100,000 to meet critical medical equipment needs at Yukon’s hospitals. The event’s last chance auction, an opportunity for guests to donate towards a specific hospital need, netted an additional \$65,000 moving us closer to our two-year goal of raising \$600,000 towards the purchase of a new fluoroscopy machine for Whitehorse General Hospital.

“We are fortunate to live in an incredibly special and giving community,” said Philip Fitzgerald, Chair of the Yukon Hospital Foundation. “We extend our sincerest thanks to our guests, sponsors, volunteers and many community partners for their support of our hospitals. Together, we’ve showed how important quality health care is to all of us.”

The Northwestel Festival of Trees is one of the community’s most anticipated events, featuring a number of special occasions and activities that allow every Yukoner an opportunity to take part. Trees and wreaths are donated by local businesses and organizations, offering a unique opportunity for companies to exhibit their products, creativity and community commitment. These trees and wreaths are the heart of all festival events, which ran from November 24 to December 3. The public had an opportunity to view the trees at the Yukon Government’s Main Administration Building throughout the opening week and during the many events, including the BAH Humbug Cocktail Party, Skookum Asphalt Santa Breakfast and Save-on-Foods Seniors’ Soiree before being live-auctioned off at the Grand Ball.

All proceeds from the events help our hospitals purchase advanced equipment that enables our nurses, clinical support staff and physicians to provide safe and excellent care. This support has made many significant, life-saving investments possible, including our MRI scanner, ophthalmology microscope used for delicate eye surgery, fetal monitors and IV pumps with high-tech safety features. Meeting these needs would not be possible without the continuing support of our community.

“Thank you to Northwestel our title sponsor for its community leadership on-going commitment to our health care,” said Karen Forward, President of the Yukon Hospital Foundation. “We were also pleased to also welcome Save-on-Foods, which is new to our community, as the title event

sponsor of our ever-popular Seniors' Soiree, and Goldcorp as the title event sponsor of the opening night BAH Humbug Cocktail Party.”

Forward added that these companies joined returning major event sponsors and long-time supporters Alkan Air, Nuway Cushing and Skookum Asphalt. “All businesses, individuals and volunteers, which are a part of this event, help us celebrate the warmth and generous spirit of our very special community, and ensure the health and well-being of everyone in the territory.” she said.

Because of you, we are closer to reaching our goal of ensuring Yukoners continue to have the very best health care, closer to home.

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