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Canada's New Government supports Aboriginal young people in Saskatoon

For Immediate Release

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SASKATOON – On behalf of the Honourable Josée Verner, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages, Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament (Saskatoon-Wanuskewin), today announced funding for a project aimed at Aboriginal young people in Saskatoon. An investment of \$45,000 will go to the Saskatoon Downtown Youth Centre.

“Canada’s New Government is committed to helping Aboriginal young people access opportunities for cultural and personal development,” said Minister Verner. “This project will offer with a variety of workshops and recreational activities, with emphasis on traditional culture, as well as leadership and life skills.”

“This project will help more urban Aboriginal young people reach their full potential, to the benefit of our entire community,” said Mr. Vellacott. “Our Government is proud to support organizations that help Aboriginal young people learn about their culture and acquire important skills.”

The Saskatoon Downtown Youth Centre will receive up to \$45,000 for their Joe’s Garage project, providing support services to Aboriginal young men who are involved in street lifestyles or at-risk. The project will help young people develop positive behaviors, learn from Elders and other mentors, empower themselves, and leave negative behaviours behind.

Canada’s New Government has provided this funding through the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centre programming element of the Department of Canadian Heritage’s Aboriginal Peoples’ Program. This element provides Aboriginal young people, aged 15 to 24, living in urban settings, with projects and activities that are culturally relevant and based in the Aboriginal community. It also helps Aboriginal young people improve their economic, social, and personal prospects.

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For further comment, call (613) 992-1899