

## **Dᓄ Edàezhe** (Leadership & Resiliency Program)

On July 10, 2009 Minister of Justice, Peter Van Loon, on behalf of the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) announced that Yellowknife Catholic Schools would receive 7.1 million dollars over five years to implement Dᓄ Edàezhe, a District wide initiative to develop leadership and resiliency in youth. To facilitate this initiative, we will be hiring two Program Writers, five Program Facilitators and three Mentorship/ Community Liaison personnel. The program will be coordinated by Dianne Lafferty, Aboriginal Program Coordinator for Yellowknife Catholic Schools.

“Dᓄ Edàezhe” is a Dogrib expression describing a person who is capable, skillful and knowledgeable; a person who has the skills they need to survive in the world in the traditional Dene sense.

This District wide project will build upon this idea and work with youth to identify and recognize their strengths and abilities through targeted counseling, mentorship, and leadership opportunities including key cultural experiences which will allow youth to explore Dene cultural heritage and traditions and volunteer opportunities within the community.

At the high school level Dᓄ Edàezhe will follow the Leadership & Resiliency Program, a National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) model program. The program for the elementary level will be developed during the first year of the programs inception.

Listen to a recent CBC interview about this project by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.ycs.nt.ca/DianeLaffertyInterview.mp3>

For more information about this exciting initiative, please contact Dianne Lafferty at 766-7400.