



Yukon
Government

News Release.....

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INCREASE IN CHILD BENEFIT AIDS LOW INCOME YUKON FAMILIES

WHITEHORSE – Yukon's low income families will see a 50 per cent increase in their monthly Yukon Child Benefit (YCB). The increase to the benefit is included in the 2004/2005 budget and will take effect July 1. For eligible Yukon families, the rate will increase from \$25 per month per child, to \$37.50 per month, per child.

"We want to put the money where it will do the most good, and this initiative will support low income families, single parents and parents who choose to stay at home to raise their children," Health and Social Services Minister Peter Jenkins said.

The Yukon Child Benefit was introduced in 1999. With the increase, it will now provide up to \$450 per year per child, up from \$300, for each child under age 18. It is rolled into monthly cheques that also include the Canada Child Tax Benefit and the National Child Benefit Supplement.

Jenkins said approximately 1000 Yukon families are currently receiving the YCB. That number will rise with another change to the program that will increase the threshold at which people are eligible for the benefit. Families earning up to \$25,000 per year will now receive the full tax benefit. This is up from the previous level of \$16,700, and families who earn between \$25,000 and \$40,000 will now be eligible for a portion of the child tax benefit.

Jenkins added that low income families on social assistance would not have their benefits reduced as a result of the increase to the YCB.

"The point here is to help families raise their children, not penalize them for the support they do receive," Jenkins said.

The YCB payments will automatically increase in July. Payments are based on the previous year's tax return.

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