



### **Program Overview:**

WILD stands for Wilderness Initiatives for Leadership Development. WILD is a one-semester experiential program that incorporates the following courses: Physical Geography 12/Geology 12, Environmental Science 11, Outdoor Education 12, Career Life Education 12.

WILD prepares students for employment in the outdoor industry. The skills learned in this program are designed to be transferrable to any outdoor-based occupation, allowing the participants to give back to their community of the Yukon. Students will take the initiative and become an integral part of their trip's planning and leadership component. Unlike the other local outdoor education programs, students will plan their year-end expedition as their Capstone project.

The semester will consist of a range of backcountry trips. The winter trips will focus on backcountry snowmobile travel, and the spring trip will focus on extended river travel. The students themselves will plan the final trip. They will be responsible for the following trip logistics; route mapping, trip itinerary, gear list, meal plan, budget, interpretive knowledge, risk management, and trip leadership. The program's focus on taking students out onto the land and providing positive experiences will enable them to become more ecologically literate with their local Yukon environment.

## Program Activities

The YFWET funded our final year-end expedition with the WILD class. The last culminating trip took place on the Lapie River, near the community of Ross River. WILD spent seven days paddling the Lapie river, developing their white-water packrafting and rescue skills while partaking in riverside clean-ups and conducting wildlife transects along the river.

***Whitewater Skill Development:*** Students received their Wilderness Advanced First Aid and Whitewater Rescue Technician certifications earlier in the semester. The Lapie river provided an excellent location for safe and technical white-water access. Students paddled the class 2 sections and learned how to paddle safely as a team, conduct both self and team rescues, and scout and navigate different rapids.

***Riverside Clean Up:*** While travelling from Whitehorse to the Lapie River, WILD students picked up trash at every roadside pullout, put in, look out and take-outs that we stopped at during the trip. We collected numerous bags of trash from our trip. Students were appalled and surprised by the amount of garbage picked up at all locations. From beer cans to disposable cups to old tarps and chairs, there was quite a variety of trash found. Check out the map to see the different sites where we cleaned up trash.

***Wildlife Transects:*** Before the trip, WILD students researched different fauna species that we might encounter during our trip. Students studied Grizzly bears, wolves, and caribou in the area. They completed transects at various locations along the river throughout our trip to determine how these species utilized the river valley.

***Seek App:*** Students challenged themselves to identify many different species of flora and fauna using the Seek app on their phones throughout the trip. This app allowed them to log other plant species and, if rare or unique, post to iNaturalist.

***Yukon Goldenweed Search:*** Bruce Bennett tasked us with finding Yukon Goldenweed, a rarer species that have been identified along the South Canol before. Unfortunately, our search for the Goldenweed was unsuccessful; however, students did ID over 100 different plants within the region using the seek app. We also spotted Black bears, Grizzly bears, Fannin sheep, porcupines, and many birds along the ridgelines of the Lapie river. It was an incredible experience for all of us.

***Future Youth Outdoor Guide Development:*** Upon completing the WILD program, students have taken the initiative and completed a number of personal trips on Yukon Waterways, such as the Takhini and the Nisutlin River. Last summer, some students worked for the Yukon Youth Conservation Corps for field workers. Other students have gone on to work as Teachers On Call for Yukon Education with different junior outdoor education programs (SASE, OPES, ACES) within Whitehorse. Some students plan on continuing their outdoor skill development and hope to work as outdoor guides this summer. Having environmentally-friendly youth advocates working in the North will undoubtedly impact our future as Yukoners. These students will be excellent role models for their peers, co-workers, and guests as they continue to share and explore the Yukon.

### **What did we use the fund for?**

WILD used the YFWET for drysuit, packraft and inflatable canoe rentals from Tatshenshini Expediting (\$4347).

### **Program Adaptations and Variances:**

Our programs continually evolve to meet students' needs, accommodate weather, and mitigate risk. Our upcoming trips this semester have altered for various reasons.

#### ***1. South Canol Road Closure:***

We could not access the upper sections of the Lapie and Rose river due to the late winter thaw and road washouts. Fortunately, after contacting Highways, we could access the lower sections of the Lapie river, which still provided an excellent area for their white-water development and wildlife research.

#### ***2. Unable to facilitate Ross River Youth Canoe Instruction:***

We reached out to Ross River School about offering canoe instruction to their students; however, we never received a reply.

#### ***3. Highwater on Lapie River:***

Upon arrival to the Lapie river, we observed and documented the river level rising at a high rate during the evening. Due to the higher water levels on the first day, we cautiously scouted (with a drone and physically walking) as we did not know what hazards (i.e. Strainers and sweepers) would present themselves as we moved downstream. We only paddled a short section the first day as scouting reduced our moving speed on the river.

#### ***4. Bus Issues:***

Our government school bus broke down halfway through our trip. We were stuck at the Lapie Campground for a day while waiting for the bus repairs. This incident shortened our river paddling time. We were able to borrow the Faro bus to get on the water the next day. A local Ross River mechanic fixed our bus before returning to Whitehorse.

## ***PCSS Communications***

### *Enhancement Trust Recognition:*

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust has been recognized through various forms within our school community. Listed below are the different ways the enhancement trust has been acknowledged.

- Acknowledged at WILD as a supporter of our program.
- Acknowledged at the annual Department of Education Outdoor Trip Leader Debrief.
- Acknowledged in WILD parent emails.
- Acknowledged by participating students within these programs.
- Word of mouth acknowledgement with peers and community members.
- Future Acknowledgement in the school newsletter, program social media pages and school website



## Project Photos: WILD Lapie River Expedition

These photos highlight many of the experiences PCSS students have had during our experiential program.





## What did the YFWET get used?

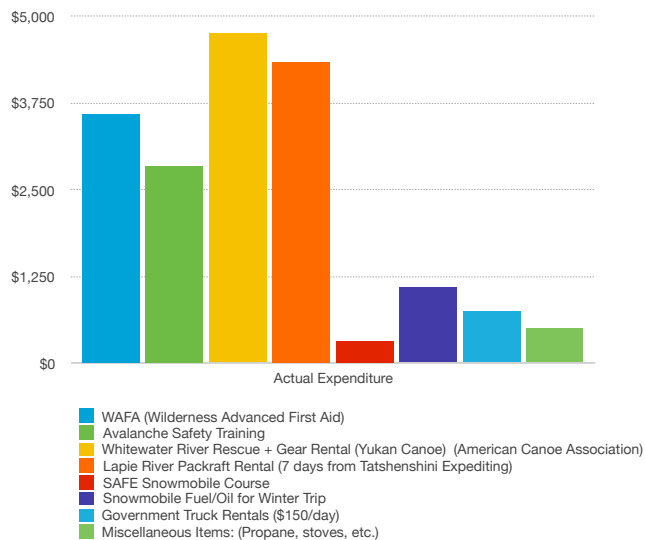
Item	Cost	Comments	Receipts Included
<b>Tatshenshini Expediting</b> <i>Packraft and Drysuit Rentals</i>	\$4347	-8 Drysuits (\$200/suit) -9 Packrafts (\$260/boat) -1 Inflatable Canoe (\$200/boat)	X

## WILD 2021 Budget

MONEY IN	
School Budget (O&M)	\$5,000
Student Fees (Trust)	\$2,700
Hugh and Helen Hinckman Fund (\$2,250) Avalanche Rescue	\$2,250
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust	\$5,000
Building Youth Futures Grant for Whitewater Rescue Technician Course	\$5,000
Yukon Avalanche Association (Instructor Fees)	\$585
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$20,535</b>



MONEY OUT	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE
WAFA (Wilderness Advanced First Aid)	\$3,600
Avalanche Safety Training	\$2,835
Whitewater River Rescue + Gear Rental (Yukon Canoe) (American Canoe Association)	\$4,761
Lapie River Packraft Rental (7 days from Tatshenshini Expediting)	\$4,347
SAFE Snowmobile Course	\$324
Snowmobile Fuel/Oil for Winter Trip	\$1,100
Government Truck Rentals (\$150/day)	\$750
Miscellaneous Items: (Propane, stoves, etc.)	\$500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$18,217</b>



*Tatshenshini Expediting*  
CANOE / KAYAK / RAFT / RESCUE

Tatshenshini Expediting  
18 Boulder Rd  
Whitehorse, Yukon

# INVOICE

# 018-21

Date: Jun 1, 2021

Bill To:  
**Terry Milne**  
Department of Education

**Balance Due: CA\$4,347.00**

Item	Quantity	Rate	Amount
Drysuit rental (7 days)	8	CA\$200.00	CA\$1,600.00
Packraft Rental (7 days)	9	CA\$260.00	CA\$2,340.00
Inflatable Canoe Rental (7 days)	1	CA\$200.00	CA\$200.00

Subtotal: CA\$4,140.00

Tax (5%): CA\$207.00

Total: CA\$4,347.00