



Dene National / Assembly of First Nations Office (NWT)

website: www.denenation.ca



Dene Nation and the Mastercard Foundation announce partnership to support Indigenous youth and education in the North

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[June 29, 2020 – Yellowknife, NT] – Dene Nation and the Mastercard Foundation today announced a \$170,000 partnership that will enable Indigenous students in the North to access education.

“The battle against COVID-19 has far reaching impacts for our communities and it is critical we support our most vulnerable with the resources they need. Education is fundamental for the future of our youth and I applaud the Mastercard Foundation for taking an innovative approach to addressing the needs of our communities,” said Dene National Chief Norman Yakeleya.

COVID-19 is causing school closings, and the lack of connectivity in homes in the North has further complicated access to education for Indigenous students. For many students, school is not only a place of learning but a safe place where their teachers, classmates, and staff provide support for their health and mental wellness.

Grade 12 Indigenous students who lack connectivity in their homes will now have internet access and schools in communities will be provided with devices such as Turbo Sticks and Chromebooks. These devices will be loaned to families to access education online and to provide educational resources when school resumes in the Fall. Data plans and technical support will also be offered as part of this initiative.

This partnership will also create economic opportunities for post-secondary Indigenous students to develop land-based and cultural resources that will be shared across the territory.

“We can build resilience for the future by providing young people and families with the tools they need to ensure they have access to education, including education that values their language and culture. We are very pleased to partner with the Dene Nation in enabling learning to continue despite the disruption experienced by communities,” said Reeta Roy, President and CEO of the Mastercard Foundation.

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About Dene Nation

The Dene Nation works to uphold the rights and interests of the Dene, including rights and interests arising from Dene use and occupation of lands (“Denendeh”) and Dene rights and interests arising from Treaties. For more information, visit www.denenation.com

About the Mastercard Foundation

The Mastercard Foundation seeks a world where everyone has the opportunity to learn and prosper. Through its Young Africa Works strategy, Canadian EleV program, and the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program, the Foundation works with partners to ensure that millions of young people, especially young women, access quality education, financial services, and dignified work. The Mastercard Foundation was established in 2006 through the generosity of Mastercard when it became a public company. The Foundation is independent with its own Board of Directors and CEO. For more information and to sign up for the Foundation’s newsletter, please visit <http://www.mastercardfdn.org/>. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at @MastercardFdn.

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