



## Dené National / Assembly of First Nations Office (NWT)

5120- 49<sup>th</sup> Street

P.O. Box 2338

Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2P7

Website: [www.denenation.ca](http://www.denenation.ca)

Phone: (867) 873-4081

Fax: (867) 920-2254

Toll Free: 1-866-511-4081



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –**

## **Dene Nation and Mastercard Foundation’s Educational Partnership Continues to be Realized Across the North**

[February 11, 2021 – Yellowknife, NT] – Access to education for Indigenous students in the North is an ongoing challenge. School closings as a result of COVID-19, coupled with an existing lack of connectivity in homes, has exacerbated these problems.

However, in June of 2020 the Dene Nation was proud to partner with the Mastercard Foundation to announce a \$170,000 agreement that would enable Indigenous students in the North to access education - today, part of that agreement is being realized across schools in the North.

“Dene Nation staff are hard at work distributing the much anticipated Chromebooks across the territory. As I said when our partnership was finalized, it is absolutely critical that we support our most vulnerable with the resources they need. Education is fundamental for the future of our youth. I applaud the Mastercard Foundation for taking an innovative approach to address the needs of our communities and I applaud the Dene Nation staff for continuing to ensure this aspect of the roll out was successful, despite COVID-19 related manufacturing delays,” said Dene National Chief Norman Yakeleya.

In addition to previously received turbo sticks for those grade 12 students without internet connectivity in their homes, a delivery of 200 Chromebooks is being distributed to northern schools. Once distributed, it will provide students the most up to date technology to use onsite, and allow schools to loan out their older models for use by students at home.

-30-

**Dene Nation Media Inquiries – Laila Adam** | [policy@denenation.com](mailto:policy@denenation.com)