



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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24th annual Northwestel Festival of Trees returns in support of Love Our Lab

WHITEHORSE, YUKON – The Yukon Hospital Foundation’s 24th annual Northwestel Festival of Trees returns this November, bringing together businesses, organizations, volunteers and community members for one of the Yukon’s favourite holiday traditions.

Taking place from November 19 to 28, this year’s Festival features a full lineup of events, beautifully decorated trees, auctions and the Northwestel Festival of Trees 50/50 Raffle — all in support of the Yukon Hospital Foundation’s Love Our Lab campaign.

“For 24 years, the Festival of Trees has shown what is possible when our community comes together in support of health care,” said **Tara Chmelyk, Chair of the Yukon Hospital Foundation Board of Directors**. “The generosity of our sponsors, tree donors, volunteers and guests makes an incredible difference. This year, that support will help us build on the success of Love Our Lab and make an even greater investment in laboratory care for Yukoners.”

The Festival begins with the Talamore BAH Humbug Cocktail Party on Thursday, November 19 at the Jim Smith Building, followed by the Terus Construction Santa Breakfast on Saturday, November 21.

The celebration then moves to the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre for the Save-On-Foods Seniors’ Soirée on Friday, November 27, followed by the Alkan Air Grand Ball on Saturday, November 28.

Throughout the Festival, trees created by local businesses and organizations will help raise funds through live and silent auctions. Yukoners can also take part in the Northwestel Festival of Trees 50/50 Raffle, with ticket sales open from October 2 through December 2 and the draw taking place December 16. Last year’s Festival 50/50 jackpot reached an incredible \$231,180, with the winner taking home \$115,590.

Northwestel returns as the Festival’s title sponsor, continuing its longstanding partnership with the Yukon Hospital Foundation.

"For more than two decades, Northwestel has been fortunate to be part of the Festival of Trees and the incredible generosity that surrounds it each year. It’s a special Yukon tradition that brings our

community together, and we're honoured to continue supporting the Yukon Hospital Foundation and Love Our Lab." — **Curtis Shaw, President**

Proceeds from the 2026 Festival will support Love Our Lab, the Yukon Hospital Foundation's campaign to modernize the Whitehorse General Hospital Laboratory. After Yukoners helped the Foundation reach its original \$500,000 fundraising goal ahead of schedule, the Foundation's Board of Directors approved expanding the campaign to \$1 million. The expanded campaign will support the laboratory modernization already underway, including a new laboratory track and robotic arm, as well as the addition of a new hematology analyzer.

Laboratory testing plays an important role throughout a patient's health-care journey, helping physicians and health-care teams diagnose illness, monitor treatment and make decisions about care.

The expanded Love Our Lab campaign will continue through spring 2027.

For information about the **Northwestel Festival of Trees**, including events, tickets, auctions and the **Northwestel Festival of Trees 50/50 Raffle**, visit yhf.ca.

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