Northwest Territories Teachers' Association

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MEDIA RELEASE

- For Immediate Release -

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RE: 13th Annual NWTTA *Thank You for Making a Difference* Launch

Yellowknife, NT (January 18, 2010) – The Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (NWTTA) invites all Kindergarten to Grade 12 students in the Northwest Territories (NWT) to thank a teacher who has made a difference in their lives.

"For teachers, as it is for most people – being thanked for the work they do is gratifying," notes David Reid, NWTTA President. "Making a difference in the lives of students is why teachers teach – but it is always nice for them to hear words of appreciation along the way."

Thank You for Making a Difference (TYFMAD) submissions written by students about teachers will be accepted at NWT schools from January 18 to February 12, 2010. Each entry gives students a chance to win one of two laptop computers and the teachers they write about may win a First Air flight from the NWT to Edmonton.

Winners will be announced on February 26, 2010 at the Hay River *Celebration of Education* hosted by the NWTTA South Slave Regional Executive.

Each year after the draws, teachers receive the original messages of thanks sent in by students. From the first pilot year with its 29 submissions to subsequent years where entries have grown to over 1,500 annually, more than14,000 words of thanks have been shared in this manner.

The NWTTA extends its appreciation to students who have thanked teachers through their TYFMAD submissions and to those students, parents, families and community members who show their gratitude and support in a multitude of other ways. *Excerpts from past TYFMAD submissions can be viewed on the NWTTA website (www.nwtta.nt.ca).*

"Thanks to the generosity of Northern News Services, First Air and the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Education, Culture and Employment our *Thank You for Making a Difference* initiative is now in its 13th year," states Reid. "I appreciate the contributions of our partners and thank them for their ongoing support of the work teachers do."

TYFMAD nomination forms are available in Northern News Services publications (NewsNorth, Dehcho Drum, Inuvik Drum, Friday's Yellowknifer) and from NWT schools. Forms can also be downloaded from the NWTTA website (www.nwtta.nt.ca).

For further information or to arrange an interview with NWTTA President David Reid, contact: Gayla Meredith, Coordinator – Member Services, Northwest Territories Teachers' Association; Phone: (867) 873-8501; Email:gmeredith@nwtta.nt.ca

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