



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon Forum concludes at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon, the Council of Yukon First Nations and First Nations chiefs wrapped up the Yukon Forum today where they had a successful roundtable discussion on their common priorities.

A number of important issues were discussed. A key accomplishment was an agreement to form a working group to examine establishing a land-based healing initiative to serve all Yukon First Nations and Yukoners. Priorities put forward by First Nations also included land-use planning, resource royalty sharing and fiscal harmonization as well as a number of other community issues.

Participants also agreed to hold the next Yukon Forum later this year to report on progress.

"It is a privilege to co-chair the Yukon Forum in a beautiful facility such as the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre and to hear First Nations' priorities and interests," Premier Darrell Pasloski said. "I am pleased that we have agreed to work together to examine the establishment of a land-based healing initiative, which will go a long way in helping to build strong and healthy communities."

Along with the premier and grand chief, 12 First Nations leaders attended the forum accompanied by their senior officials.

"Today's forum was an important opportunity to come together to talk and we are pleased to hear the willingness of the Yukon government to work with Yukon First Nations to address the issues and concerns we share as governments," Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Ruth Massie said. "We look forward to moving ahead in a positive manner and hope today's discussions help us achieve satisfying results."

Since it was established in 2005, the Yukon Forum has worked on and delivered a number of successful initiatives including implementing the \$40 million Northern Strategy Trust fund; and developing the implementation framework for the Northern Strategy Yukon chapter.

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