

FOR RELEASE
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Minister to join federal, provincial and territorial colleagues at climate change meeting

WHITEHORSE—Minister of Environment Wade Istchenko will bring a northern perspective to a national climate change meeting held January 28 and 29 in Ottawa.

The minister will meet with federal, provincial and territorial colleagues as an important step in developing a pan-Canadian effort to establish a framework for responding to climate change.

"The Government of Yukon is pleased to be part of the pan-Canadian climate change effort," Istchenko said. "Yukon supports a collaborative process on climate change which will lead to outcomes suitable for all of Canada, including the North."

The minister, along with his colleagues from the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, will highlight the territories' ongoing collaboration through the Pan-Territorial Adaptation Strategy, which emphasizes shared priorities and the need for action that focuses on adaptation and mitigation. The Northern premiers first delivered this message at the Quebec Summit on Climate Change in April of last year.

The meeting is part of the federal government's commitment to formally meet with provinces and territories within 90 days of COP21 to establish a pan-Canadian framework for combatting climate change. Leaders will also discuss how to move forward on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

"I look forward to meeting with my counterparts to discuss the international commitments made in Paris and how a pan-Canadian approach can work for all jurisdictions," Istchenko added. "While Yukon is taking responsibility and acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts we are seeing, future climate change activity must recognize Yukon's high cost of living and emerging economic situation."

The Yukon government released its 2015 Climate Change Action Plan Progress Report in December 2015, to communicate progress and identify new actions.

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