



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon government supports community development in Kluane region

WHITEHORSE—The long-term prosperity of Haines Junction and the Kluane region was explored at a two-day community development event held March 26 and 27.

The Village of Haines Junction coordinated public presentations and workshops aimed at encouraging Kluane-area residents to take full advantage of the region's natural, cultural and infrastructural amenities to further economic and social development.

"The community development conference was an opportunity to continue to work together with the community of Haines Junction and stakeholders in the Kluane region to discuss ways we can attract long-term prosperity to this important area," Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor said.

Event participants were welcomed by Chief Steve Smith of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Kluane MLA Wade Istchenko.

"This workshop is aligned with our economic development vision, which is based on the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' four-year strategy," Smith said. "Creating connections is one of its key foundations and we are happy to work with the greater Haines Junction area to move forward with long-term sustainable economic development."

Istchenko added: "Moving forward with our First Nations partners and the Village of Haines Junction, we want to market the Kluane area's enormous potential to the world. This event is a good next step that builds on the destination development sessions we held here last year."

The workshop was delivered by tourism and economic development experts from Vancouver Island University. Representatives from the Yukon department of Economic Development helped facilitate some of the small group workshops. The Yukon government supported the event with \$9,146.

"This workshop is council's commitment to taking the next step in the planning process for positioning the community to grow in a sustainable fashion," Haines Junction Mayor Mike Crawshay said. "The emphasis is on celebrating the natural wonder of this place, which is one of the most important reasons people choose to live here."

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