



FOR RELEASE  
February 12, 2013

## **Premier works to strengthen Yukon's relationship with Canada**

WHITEHORSE—Working together to ensure Yukon is well-placed to support a growing economy and resource industry was top of the agenda at Premier Darrell Pasloski's meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa yesterday.

"We talked about a range of topics, all important to Yukon's future as a thriving, sustainable territory that benefits Yukoners as well as all Canadians," Pasloski said. "We discussed the importance of training programs to help people develop the skills needed to support our growing resource industry."

Other topics discussed at the meeting included the U.S. funding needed to complete the requirements of the Shikwak highway project agreement between Canada and the U.S. to continue highway reconstruction and mitigate permafrost degradation.

Pasloski also presented the Prime Minister with a copy of J.J. Van Bibber's book, *I Was Born Under a Spruce Tree*.

"As international attention shifts North, I confirmed with the Prime Minister Yukon's long-standing support for Canada's upcoming role as Arctic Council chair and continued willingness to share our unique northern experience and expertise," Pasloski said.

The premier also met with Finance Minister Jim Flaherty; Minister of State for Finance Ted Menzies; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development John Duncan and the Ambassador of the Philippines Leslie Gatan.

As well, Education Minister Scott Kent, Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Brad Cathers and Tourism and Culture, and Justice Minister Mike Nixon were in Ottawa meeting their federal counterparts.

Following his meetings, the premier hosted a high profile Yukon reception at the Ottawa convention centre. On Tuesday the premier travelled to Toronto to deliver a Munk-Gordon Arctic Speaker Series lecture, entitled *A Decade of Devolution—What's Next for Yukon?* The public lecture can be viewed on the Gordon Foundation site.

The premier also made time to enjoy Yukon Days at Ottawa's Winterlude Festival, taking in shows featuring Yukon performers Infinite Movement, Claire Ness and Kelvin Smoler. Find out more about Yukon Days at [www.gov.yk.ca/yukondays.html](http://www.gov.yk.ca/yukondays.html).

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