



FOR RELEASE
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Minister works with counterparts to support northern development

WHITEHORSE—Minister of Economic Development Currie Dixon said today the upcoming Northern Development Ministers' Forum will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the future of energy development and sustainability in Canada's North.

Dixon will attend this year's forum on September 23 to 25 in Fort McMurray.

"This year's forum theme, Energy for All, is particularly relevant for Yukon and I'm looking forward to discussions with my northern counterparts," Dixon said. "Given our expanding population and economic growth, sustainable energy is a priority for Yukon and we're keenly interested in sharing our experiences and also learning how other northern jurisdictions are addressing this important issue."

As part of their energy focus, ministers will tour oil sand developments in the Wood Buffalo Region and the McArthur River Uranium Mine in northern Saskatchewan. Ministers will also view a presentation on how the Slave Lake Tri-council addressed the challenges of the devastating 2011 Slave Lake fire.

At the forum, co-hosted by Alberta and Saskatchewan, the ministers will also discuss impact benefit agreements for resource development, demand for telecommunications technology infrastructure and housing.

"Collaborative action on social, economic and fiscal issues of importance to the North always drives the agenda at these meetings," Dixon added. "By working together and sharing experiences and different approaches, we can and will ensure that ongoing initiatives and any new joint projects create economic opportunity and security for northern communities."

The Northern Development Ministers' Forum, first established in 2001, provides federal, provincial and territorial ministers representing the North with an opportunity to advance common interests and raise awareness of northern issues and accomplishments.

For more information about the Northern Development Ministers' Forum, visit www.focusnorth.ca.

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