



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Yukon working towards regional solutions to regional challenges**

WHITEHORSE—Economic Development Minister Currie Dixon will be in Anchorage, Alaska this week to attend the 2013 Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit.

"The summit is a great opportunity to discuss economic development and diversification, as well as potential infrastructure projects relating to power, transportation and telecommunications, with our partners in the region," Dixon said. "The opportunities and challenges we face in Yukon are not always unique to us. They are often regional challenges that require regional solutions."

The 2013 PNWER Annual Summit will see over 600 key business leaders, legislators and government leaders from PNWER's 10 states, provinces, and territories gather in Anchorage to address the major policy issues impacting economic development in the region. The summit will include networking and community building, business and professional development, and developing solutions to regional issues through interaction with regional leadership. Several Yukon businesses from a variety of sectors are joining Economic Development minister and senior officials at the summit.

Because the summit is being hosted in Alaska this year, it has a specific focus on northern issues. For the last year, Yukon has chaired the PNWER Arctic Caucus working group made up of the northern jurisdictions. At this week's summit, the territory will pass on the position of chair to Alaska.

In addition to participating in workshops on labour, innovation, transportation and mining, Minister Dixon will sit on two panels: one on energy policy and the other on regional approaches to the challenge of invasive species.

PNWER is a public-private organization chartered by the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington; the western Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan, as well as Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

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