



FOR RELEASE  
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## **First Nation governance and capacity conference connects governments**

WHITEHORSE—First Nation, Yukon and federal government representatives once again had the opportunity to share experiences at the fifth annual First Nation Governance and Capacity Development Conference: Making Connections, at the Yukon Convention Centre February 5 and 6.

The conference was hosted by the Government of Yukon, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the Council of Yukon First Nations. It included plenary and breakout sessions, panels and networking opportunities on topics including governance, capacity building, economic development and education.

"With the expected growth in the coming years of the Yukon economy, the First Nation Governance and Capacity Development Conference will help Yukon First Nations position themselves to make a strong impact on job creation, economic growth and long-term prosperity in the region," the Honourable Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada John Duncan said. "Our government is pleased to support this event and others like it, that help First Nations to be prepared to take full advantage of upcoming economic opportunities."

There were a variety of speakers at the conference including University of Saskatchewan professor and this year's keynote, Ken Coates, who has written extensively about Aboriginal and northern Canadian affairs. Dr. Robert Hathaway, who is a faculty member of Indigenous Leadership, Business and Economic Development courses at the Banff Centre in Alberta also gave a presentation about developing cooperation agreements for economic development.

"We were pleased to co-host the conference once again with our partners at Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the Council of Yukon First Nations," the Honourable Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski said. "This is another example of working together with our First Nation partners to create jobs and strengthen our communities."

Also at this year's conference, representatives from the Government of Yukon, and the Carcross/Tagish, Kwanlin Dün and Vuntut Gwitchin governments unveiled a unique assessment tool that offers practical recommendations to help build resources within First Nation governments.

"As this very important conference marks its fifth year and we come together as a community to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow later this month, we are pleased to work with our territorial and federal partners to explore avenues and share experiences that will increase the opportunities for Yukon First Nations to continue to move forward," Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Ruth Massie said.

For more information visit: [www.firstnationgovernanceconference.ca](http://www.firstnationgovernanceconference.ca).

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Download high resolution images:

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