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NEWS release

FOR RELEASE #09-024

February 12, 2009

Premier's Meetings with Federal Ministers in Ottawa a Success

WHITEHORSE – Premier Dennis Fentie met with the Prime Minister and federal ministers in Ottawa this week.

"The meetings and events held during Yukon Days were a success. We raised awareness and discussed significant issues important to Yukon, the North and Canada," Fentie said.

In addition to discussions with the Prime Minister on a wide range of Yukon issues including the Porcupine Caribou Herd and the Salmon Treaty, Fentie also took part in the following meetings.

- Trilateral meeting with Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Chuck Strahl, Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Andy Carvill, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Chief Diane Strand, and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Chief Joe Linklater, discussions included implementation funding for Self-Governing First Nations; involvement of Yukon and First Nations in structuring the northern economic development agency model, and the possibility of holding an Intergovernmental Forum this spring.

- Discussions with Finance Minister Jim Flaherty centered on implementation funding for Self-Governing First Nations.

- Meeting with Minister Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, the premier raised the issues of implementation funding for Final Agreements, the Territorial Formula Financing Agreement and renewal of the Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative.

- Meeting with Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities John Baird, the premier discussed the Green Energy Access Fund and was assured that the Mayo B hydro project was a number one priority.

- It was agreed at a meeting with Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Josée Verner that the minister would continue to work with Yukon on a coordinated approach to intergovernmental relations.

- During discussions with Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq, strong support for the 2010 renewal of the Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative was indicated.

The premier also addressed a well-attended Public Policy Forum, where he provided an overview of Yukon and the Emerging North, and attended Yukon Days cultural performances.

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