



## Government of Yukon

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**NEWS** release

FOR RELEASE #09-085

April 1, 2009

### Biodiversity Awareness Month Celebrated in Yukon

WHITEHORSE – More than 20 Yukon organizations and many volunteers will help Yukoners celebrate Yukon's plants, fish, birds and animals during Biodiversity Month this April, Environment Minister Elaine Taylor announced today.

"Biodiversity Awareness Month provides each of us the opportunity to celebrate the animals, insects, fish and amphibians that call Yukon home," Taylor said. "This year's celebrations affirm the very importance of Yukon's biological diversity for our health and well-being."

Yukon observes Biodiversity Awareness Month every April with events that celebrate the biological diversity of the territory's living things and the role they play in keeping our environment healthy. National Wildlife Week this year, from April 5 to 11, will focus on "our home and native plants".

Special events include a biodiversity music showcase, family fishing days, Earth Day for Birds at the Yukon Wildlife Preserve, a Biodiversity Forum at the Yukon College, special events at Sheep Mountain in Kluane National Park and the much loved Celebration of Swans.

"Celebration of Swans has grown from a small one-day event in 1994 to a major undertaking that is now internationally recognized and attracts hundreds of participants," Taylor added. "Swan Haven has grown to become one of the most accessible wildlife viewing sites in Yukon."

Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month is supported by many partners including: Yukon Energy, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Girl Guides of Canada, Yukon College and the Yukon government.

The flyer 'Yukon Celebrates Spring', which has been distributed Yukon-wide, includes full details about biodiversity month events. Anyone interested in more information should visit the Wildlife Viewing pages on the Environment Yukon website at <http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/>.

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