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PREMIER, MINISTERS TO MEET WITH GOVERNOR AND ALASKAN COMMISSIONERS

WHITEHORSE – Premier Dennis Fentie is leading a delegation of Yukon government ministers to Alaska to meet with their Alaskan counterparts on January 18-19 to continue positive inter-governmental relationships.

Premier Fentie and the newly elected Governor of Alaska, the Honourable Sarah Palin, will hold an introductory meeting in Anchorage. “It is important that a collaborative working relationship with Governor Palin be established respecting the many important issues that concern our citizens on both sides of the border,” Fentie said. “We appreciate the Governor making time for this meeting, so early in the new government’s mandate.”

Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor, Justice Minister Marian Horne, Highways and Public Works, and Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Archie Lang, and Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon will meet with their respective Alaskan Commissioners. “These meetings will help us renew the positive reciprocal working relationships that we have established with our Alaskan counterparts,” Fentie said. “I look forward to scheduled meetings in my role as Yukon’s Environment Minister.”

Meeting topics include discussions on large infrastructure projects such as the Alaska Highway Natural Gas Pipeline, the Alaska-Canadian Rail Link Pre-Feasibility Study and the Yukon Ports Access Strategy Study. Discussions will also be held on tourism partnerships and the renewal of the Alaska-Yukon Intergovernmental Relations Accord.

“We look forward to continuing to build upon our strategic alliances with our Alaskan neighbours in order to derive mutual benefits relating to economic, resource, transportation and infrastructure initiatives,” Fentie added.

The delegation will attend a Pacific Northwest Energy Economic Region (PNWER) reception in Juneau, before travelling to Anchorage to attend the *Meet Alaska 2007 Conference* and a reception / dinner hosted by the Canadian Consulate.

Economic Development Minister, Jim Kenyon, in his role as the president of PNWER, will participate in a number of scheduled meetings relating to that organization in Juneau.

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