



FOR RELEASE #07-031

VANOC AND NORTHERN TERRITORIES SIGN MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING

WHITEHORSE (February 22, 2007) – Mr. John Furlong, Chief Executive Officer of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and Canada’s three Northern Ministers Responsible for Sport and Recreation have signed a memorandum of understanding to explore opportunities for cooperation leading up to and during the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver.

The Honourable Glenn Hart from Yukon, the Honourable Michael McLeod from the Northwest Territories and the Honourable Louis Tapardjuk of Nunavut together with Mr. Furlong have identified a number of potential areas of collaboration with 2010 that will help VANOC successfully deliver on their mission and vision for the Games while benefiting the territories in the areas of sport development and culture.

“The Games represent an opportunity for distinct regions of Canada to be showcased on the world stage through the power of the Olympic and Paralympic Games,” said Furlong. “The pan-northern approach the three territories have demonstrated in hosting the Canada Winter Games is an excellent example of how the country can come together, united by a passion for sport.”

Yukon’s Minister Hart noted the value of working collectively on projects of this scope. “Hosting the Canada Winter Games has afforded us the opportunity to develop expertise and familiarity with many of the organizational considerations related to an event of this magnitude. Many of the volunteers involved with the Canada Winter Games could fulfill similar roles during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games providing some value-added experience as well.”

“The appeal of Canada’s northern culture is well recognized around the globe,” said Northwest Territories minister Michael McLeod. “From Inuit and Dene games - which delight all audiences, to throat singing and traditional dances, we are examining the development of a northern cultural delegation for the 2010 Winter Games.”

Nunavut minister Tapardjuk noted the tremendous opportunities created by working together on national and international sporting events. “To have an opportunity for a small jurisdiction like Nunavut to participate in events like the Canada Winter Games and the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games adds benefits for not only our athletes and cultural performers, but it also helps us to foster so many positive outcomes for Nunavut as well.”

Attachment: Copy of Memorandum of Understanding

VANOC	Yukon	Northwest Territories	Nunavut
Chris Brumwell	Doug Caldwell	Brandice Pereira	Leevede Atagoyuk
Media Relations	Communications	Communications	Communications
(778) 328-6269	(867) 667-8065	(867) 920-3092	(867) 975-5512