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GOVERNMENT OF YUKON AND CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS SIGN ACCORD

WHITEHORSE – The Government of Yukon and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations are pleased to announce the signing of an Intergovernmental Relations Accord. Chief Diane Strand and Premier Dennis Fentie signed the accord on July 26 at the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations General Assembly.

“Signing this accord affirms our commitment to a process that will serve as a guide for the intergovernmental relationship between both orders of government. We look forward to working together on the development of capacity, infrastructure and programs for the citizens of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations,” Fentie said.

The accord with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations is the product of both governments’ desire to work cooperatively on jointly-identified priorities.

“Champagne and Aishihik First Nations is pleased to have reached an agreement that acknowledges our partnership with the Yukon government on issues of importance to us all,” Chief Strand said.

“Intergovernmental relations accords provide a practical way for two governments to work on areas that they both consider to be important,” Fentie said.

This accord identifies diverse priorities from environmental, economic, health and educational areas.

“This intergovernmental accord symbolizes the willingness of both our governments to work together on priorities like the bi-cultural education program and spruce beetle infestation,” Strand said.

Strand and Fentie also signed a memorandum of understanding outlining the two governments’ commitment to work collaboratively towards the construction of a new Cultural Centre, which will include the relocated Haines Junction Visitor Information Centre.

“This centre will promote Champagne and Aishihik First Nations culture and traditions while promoting cultural tourism and serving as a centre for sharing knowledge and bringing people together,” Fentie said.

A copy of the accord can be found at http://www.eco.gov.yk.ca/landclaims/agreements_fn.html

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