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**TIMBER HARVEST PROJECT MOVES FORWARD IN HAINES JUNCTION AREA**

WHITEHORSE – Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Brad Cathers and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) Chief Diane Strand announced the recent signing of a regional timber harvest project.

The Pine/Canyon Timber Harvest Project identifies 250,000 cubic meters of the 1 million cubic meters harvest volume available on both public and First Nation settlement land in the Haines Junction area. This is the first timber harvest project which identifies both public and settlement lands.

“This project is a significant step in the implementation of the area’s Strategic Forest Management Plan,” Cathers said. “It will make fuel wood available to Yukon’s forest sector while also contributing to a fire hazard reduction in the region.”

This Pine/Canyon Timber Harvest Project is part of the implementation process outlined in the Champagne and Aishihik Traditional Territory Strategic Forest Management Plan. It is the result of a collaborative planning effort by the CAFN, the Government of Yukon and the Alsek Renewable Resource Council.

Timber permit applications will be subject to assessment under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA). Public and stakeholder groups will have the opportunity to comment on the applications through the YESAA process.

Applications for Crown land timber harvesting permits are available at the Forest Management branch. Contact the branch by phone at (867) 456-3999. Settlement land permit applicants should contact the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation’s Lands and Resources Department at (867) 634-4235.

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Contact:

Matthew Grant  
Cabinet Communications  
(867) 633-7961  
[matthew.grant@gov.yk.ca](mailto:matthew.grant@gov.yk.ca)

Sunny Patch  
Energy, Mines & Resources  
(867) 667-3183  
[sunny.patch@gov.yk.ca](mailto:sunny.patch@gov.yk.ca)

Roger Brown  
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations  
(867) 668-3620  
[rbrown@cafn.ca](mailto:rbrown@cafn.ca)