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**KENYON AND TAYLOR TO ATTEND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS FORUM**

WHITEHORSE – Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon and Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor are looking forward to meeting with their northern development counterparts at this year's Northern Development Ministers Forum (NDMF).

"This forum is a valuable opportunity to build on our common strengths, coordinate our actions and lay the groundwork for shared prosperity that will benefit Northerners and all Canadians," Kenyon said.

This year's conference is themed *Developing the Tourism Potential of the North* and takes place August 27 and 28 in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

"Tourism contributes to both the social and economic wellbeing of Yukon," Taylor added. "This forum provides an opportunity to increase awareness about the importance of northern tourism and how we can work collectively to grow a sustainable tourism industry."

The NDMF agenda addresses topics such as climate change and northern tourism, how major global tourism trends impact the North, and progress reports on numerous NDMF projects currently underway.

Scheduled speakers include Dr. Daniel Scott from the University of Waterloo, speaking on Climate Change and Northern Tourism, Brenda Baptiste, from the Aboriginal Tourism B.C. Association, and Rod Taylor of Uncommon Journeys in Yukon.

The NDMF was established in 2001 to advance the diverse and common interests of Northerners, while raising awareness among decision-makers and the public about the accomplishments, contributions and potential of the North.

For more information on the Northern Development Ministers Forum, visit:

<http://www.focusnorth.ca/home.html>

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