

FOR RELEASE #08-271
October 29, 2008

YUKON CALLS FOR LONG-TERM FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING ISSUES

WHITEHORSE – Provincial and territorial governments across Canada are calling on the federal government to help put an end to the shortage of affordable housing across the country.

“It is crucial to engage the Government of Canada in addressing the housing issues we face as a nation,” Jim Kenyon, Minister Responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation, said. “These challenges must be tackled jointly by all levels of government in order to ensure every Yukoner and Canadian has access to affordable housing.”

In Ottawa earlier this month, Kenyon met with provincial and territorial counterparts, and representatives from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Canadian Real Estate Association, the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, the Canadian Federation of Apartment Associations, the Cooperative Housing Federation, the National Aboriginal Housing Association, the Métis National Council, the Native Women’s Association of Canada, the Assembly of First Nations and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples to discuss the housing needs of the country.

All participants agreed it is essential that the provinces and territories work in partnership with the Government of Canada to address the housing issues facing the country that are beyond the capacity of the provinces and territories to address on their own.

The provinces and territories welcomed Canada’s recent commitment of \$1.9 billion over five years to continue existing federal housing programs for housing and homelessness throughout Canada, but they say that more action is needed to plan for and implement effective solutions.

The provincial and territorial housing ministers await the opportunity to meet with the new federal minister responsible for housing to discuss a long-term partnership.

-30-

Contact:

Matthew Grant
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
matthew.grant@gov.yk.ca

Nathalie Harwood
Communications, Yukon Housing Corporation
867-667-5075
nathalie.harwood@gov.yk.ca