

FOR RELEASE #09-010  
February 2, 2009

### **Yukon Performers in Cultural Olympiad 2009 Announced**

WHITEHORSE – Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor extends congratulations to Kim Beggs and First People's Performances selected to perform at the Cultural Olympiad 2009.

"The Cultural Olympiad provides the opportunity to bring together a vast array of artists, audiences and communities on a scale and scope unprecedented in our nation's history," Taylor said. "Yukon government is pleased to support the participation of Yukon artists in this world-class event and congratulates those selected for 2009."

The Cultural Olympiad 2009 program was announced in the fall of 2008 by the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC).

Kim Beggs was selected to participate in the New Songs, New Voices series at the Waterfront Theatre on February 28. The series features four nights of music from a dozen emerging Canadian singer/songwriters.

"It is exciting to be invited to perform at the Cultural Olympiad in Vancouver," Beggs said. "It's an honour for my songwriting to have some resonance with the excellence of the Olympics. I will be in the good company with the many other fine Canadian songwriters who are also performing."

First People's Performances/Dakká Kwáan Dancers was selected to participate as part of the We yah hani nah Coastal First Nations Dance Festival at the UBC Museum of Anthropology from March 10–15, 2009. The festival features diverse Aboriginal dance groups from the northwest coast of British Columbia, Yukon and Washington state.

"We are excited to represent the Dakká Tlingit and Athapaskan peoples of the Yukon," First People's Performances founder Marilyn Jensen said. "To be among the beautiful, strong and prominent Northwest Coast cultures and people of British Columbia is an honour. Gunalchéesh yá haa t'éit' yeeynaagí. Thank you all for your support."

It is estimated that collectively the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad will attract over two million people to performances and exhibitions and will reach millions more through the online digital program, the National Presentation and Touring Program and television broadcasts.

For a complete list of Cultural Olympiad 2009 events, visit [www.vancouver2010.com/culturalolympiad](http://www.vancouver2010.com/culturalolympiad).

-30-

Contact:

Roxanne Vallevand  
Cabinet Communications  
867-633-7949  
[roxanne.vallevand@gov.yk.ca](mailto:roxanne.vallevand@gov.yk.ca)

Karen Keeley  
Communications, Tourism & Culture  
867-667-8304  
[karen.keeley@gov.yk.ca](mailto:karen.keeley@gov.yk.ca)