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Yukon Artists, Performers Participating In Winterlude 2009

WHITEHORSE – Thanks to coordinated efforts between the National Capital Commission (NCC) and the Government of Yukon, for the second year in a row a select group of Yukon performers and artists will participate in Winterlude, Canada's winter celebration, in Canada's Capital Region.

"We are pleased to participate in Winterlude for the second year," Premier Dennis Fentie said. "This unique three-week winter celebration is a great occasion to increase awareness of Yukon and its people, culture and opportunities."

The 31st edition of Winterlude takes place in Ottawa/Gatineau from February 6 to 22. Yukon artists will participate in special events on Saturday, February 7 and Sunday, February 8, proclaimed as Yukon Days by Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase Yukon performers and artists in the nation's capital," Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor said. "We are proud to promote the work of these talented artists at this well-recognized annual winter celebration."

"The National Capital Commission is building a capital that is a window on the country. The partnership between Winterlude and the Government of Yukon will help the more than 600,000 visitors to this event discover more about this vibrant territory and their culture," Chief Executive Officer at NCC Marie Lemay said.

Yukon performers and artists who will be participating at Winterlude include First People's Performances, Groundwork Sessions, and four Sundog woodcarvers who will demonstrate and showcase their woodcarving skills.

Artistic director Eric Epstein worked with the Government of Yukon to coordinate the selection of this group with the National Capital Commission.

The NCC is a federal Crown corporation whose mandate is to create pride and unity through Canada's Capital Region by making the Capital a meeting place that communicates Canada to Canadians. Towards this goal, the NCC organizes large-scale events such as Winterlude and Canada Day celebrations. It also takes great pride in developing and planning a capital for future generations.

For more information on Yukon performers and artists visit www.gov.yk.ca. For information about Winterlude visit www.winterlude.qc.ca.

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