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Premier Raises Yukon Issues of International Importance with Prime Minister

WHITEHORSE – Premier Dennis Fentie met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa today to discuss issues of international importance that affect Yukon.

Under discussion were the Porcupine Caribou Herd and Yukon River salmon agreements between the Governments of Canada and the United States.

“I met with the Prime Minister and raised two issues in particular that have far-reaching, international significance. These issues deserve the renewed attention of both the Canadian and U.S. federal governments, Fentie said.

“The continuing poor return of Yukon River salmon and the resulting harvest restrictions have caused considerable hardships for Yukon First Nations and others who depend on salmon,” Fentie added.

“Conservation measures need to be put in place to protect both the Yukon River salmon and to manage the harvest of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.”

Canada and the United States signed the 1987 Canada-United States Agreement on the Conservation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd which obliges both countries to refrain from activities that would damage the herd or its habitat.

The Yukon River Salmon Agreement was signed in 2002 by Canada and the United States in recognition of the uniqueness of the Yukon River and its salmon fisheries.

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Contact:

Roxanne Vallevand
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7949
roxanne.vallevand@gov.yk.ca