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Conference Highlights Yukon First Nations' Projects – Shares Success Stories

WHITEHORSE – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Government of Yukon are co-hosting the Capacity Conference: Moving Forward on February 24 to 26.

At this event, senior officials from the governments of Yukon First Nations, Yukon and Canada will network and learn from each others' experiences in capacity development.

"Government of Yukon is continuing its commitment to building strong relationships with First Nations," Premier Dennis Fentie said. "The Capacity Conference helps address one of the joint priorities we've identified - building capacity for First Nations governments.

"By supporting First Nation governance, we are investing in vibrant partnerships and collaboration among all orders of government in a modern-day Yukon. As the capacity of First Nations grows, so too does the ability for all Yukoners to take advantage of opportunities to continue to build strong, healthy communities and adaptable, vigorous economies," Fentie said.

Funding for the conference came from the Northern Strategy Trust Fund and INAC's Professional and Institutional Development Program.

The majority of Yukon First Nations and some Northern B.C. First Nations are registered for this conference.

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Media backgrounder attached: outline of presentations

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Media Backgrounder

List of Presentations

Capacity Conference: Moving Forward

Westmark Whitehorse

February 24–26, 2009

Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC)

Ann Masson, Director, International Programs, Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC), will discuss IPAC's work with approximately 30 countries in supporting the development of political and bureaucratic leadership, integrated planning and budgeting, human resource and results-based management, policy and communications.

Capacity Development within Yukon First Nation Land and Resource Departments

John Burdek, Assistant Deputy Minister, Governance Liaison Capacity Development, Yukon Government; and Shel Graupe, Director Natural Resources, Vuntut Gwitchin Government, will provide an overview of individual and joint projects aimed at increasing capacity development within Yukon First Nations' land and resource management departments.

Comprehensive Community Planning

Jeff Cook of Beringia Community Planning, Inc., will lead a session to raise awareness of comprehensive community planning as a best practice of good governance.

Overview of the Little Salmon/Carmacks Community Greenhouse Garden

Dawn Charlie will provide an overview of the First Nation's Community Greenhouse Garden project.

Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO)

Vicki Scully, Regional Manager, CESO, will present an overview of how CESO links skilled volunteer advisors with community projects.

Yukon College First Nations Initiatives Program

Tosh Southwick, Director of First Nations Initiatives, will highlight some of the capacity projects the college is currently undertaking with First Nations governments.

Executive Development Pilot Program

John Burdek, Assistant Deputy Minister, Governance Liaison Capacity Development, Yukon Government; and Lawrence Joe, Executive Director of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations; and Shelagh Rowles, Dean of Applied Science and Management, Yukon College, will provide an overview of this exciting new accredited executive leadership and management training certificate program.

Administration of Vuntut Gwitchin Government (VGG), Building Government as a Profession

Lorella Leduc will present an outline of the VGG organizational structure that separates the political role from the administration of government.

Traditional Knowledge/Dooli Research

Roger Alfred, Selkirk First Nation, will present the First Nation's consultation process within their customs and traditional systems, implementation of their traditional dooli process, land use planning on settlement land and end results.

Co-operative Agreement for Proposed Economic Activity in Traditional Territory

Tom Lie will present how the Guiding Principles Towards Best Practices Codes for Mineral Interests Within Na-Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation's Traditional Territory were developed along with the Co-operative Agreement.

Overview of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Government of Yukon Funding Opportunities

An overview will be given on the Professional and Institutional Development program by Dionne Savill, Manager, Intergovernmental Affairs, INAC; and for the Northern Strategy Trust Fund, by Paul Nordahl, Intergovernmental Relations Officer, Yukon Government.