

FOR RELEASE #09-070
March 19, 2009

Yukon Government Continues Support of the Aboriginal Pipeline Coalition

WHITEHORSE – Yukon government continues to support preparation for the proposed Alaska Highway Pipeline Project by committing \$200,000 to the Alaska Highway Aboriginal Pipeline Coalition (AHAPC), pending legislative approval, Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Brad Cathers announced today.

“Yukon supports the development of the proposed pipeline and seeks to maintain the capacity of the AHAPC to assist the preparation of affected First Nations,” Cathers said. “Yukon has endeavoured to be ‘pipeline ready’ and sees the involvement of First Nations as important in this respect.”

The AHAPC is a registered society formed to assess the implications and communicate information to Yukon First Nations on the proposed Alaska Highway natural gas pipeline. The society has been facilitated and funded by the Government of Yukon since 2005.

The AHAPC represents those Yukon First Nations whose traditional territories lie along the proposed pipeline corridor in Yukon. It is a non-political, central coordination resource centre that facilitates information sharing. It does not speak for or negotiate on behalf of First Nations.

The proposed pipeline would carry natural gas from Alaska’s North Slope to Alberta along the Alaska Highway, crossing the traditional territories of nine Yukon First Nations.

“Government of Yukon has been a steady supporter of the work of the AHAPC since the society’s work began,” AHAPC chair and Ta’an Kwäch’än Council Chief Ruth Massie said. “Yukon’s financial support has been instrumental in assisting the coalition’s seven member First Nations in preparing for the potential benefits and impacts of the proposed pipeline project.”

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources continues to work with British Columbia and Alberta under the Alaska Highway Pipeline Strategic Action Plan. It is also working with the State of Alaska, the Government of Canada and the AHAPC to advance and prepare for the proposed pipeline. This cooperative work focuses on key regulatory, First Nations and operational issues to ensure that Canadian jurisdictions are pipeline ready.

For more information on oil and gas development in Yukon and the work of the AHAPC visit www.yukonoilandgas.com or www.ahapc.ca.

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Contact:

Emily Younker
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
emily.younker@gov.yk.ca

Rod Jacob
Communications, Energy, Mines & Resources
867-667-5809
rod.jacob@gov.yk.ca