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**Selkirk First Nation Welcomed Minister Kenyon To Community Celebration**

WHITEHORSE – Chief and council of the Selkirk First Nation proudly welcomed Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon to a community tour and celebration of the progress of the Journey to Self Reliance project on Friday, March 27.

“Our council is proud of the work our staff and community has done to implement our Journey to Self Reliance projects. These projects are already increasing our capacity to govern, responding to our community needs and they will be used to develop the laws and systems we need as we assume greater responsibilities for self government,” Chief Darin Isaac said.

The Selkirk First Nation has been working on their Journey to Self Reliance project since September 2007. The project has been approved for \$2.12 million over four years from the Northern Strategy Trust. This project will strengthen Selkirk First Nation’s governance structures and processes in support of economic development.

“This is another example of how the Government of Yukon can assist First Nations with developing capacity that allows greater participation in the economy,” Premier Dennis Fentie said.

“I appreciate this opportunity to visit Pelly Crossing and to see first-hand the work the Selkirk First Nation is doing in their community,” Kenyon said. “The Department of Economic Development values its partnership in the Journey to Self Reliance project. I am pleased that we are able to support Selkirk First Nation’s efforts to improve their ability to respond to economic development opportunities.”

The half-day visit included a mine tour, community lunch and tour of the town. The visit offered the Minister an opportunity to see the new and ongoing projects that the Selkirk First Nation has undertaken. Highlights included the community’s greenhouse project and the work of the local trapping and cultural products program.

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