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Yukon to Attend International Climate Change Conference

WHITEHORSE – Environment Minister Elaine Taylor is joining her ministerial counterparts from across Canada as well as representatives from the United States (U.S) and Europe to discuss a future Canada-U.S. climate change accord in preparation of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark this December.

“This is a unique opportunity for Yukon to have a presence and potential influence on future negotiations and to garner a better understanding of the Canada-U.S. climate change issues,” Taylor said. “Yukon fully recognizes that effectively responding to climate change will require the involvement of all parties, ranging from individual action to global scale cooperation.”

“We welcome this opportunity to speak to Yukon’s commitment and experience in responding to climate change while continuing to build and develop Yukon’s response to climate change,” Taylor added.

The Thursday to Saturday conference in Banff, Alberta is organized by the Canada School of Energy and Environment Conference, an initiative between the universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge.

Policy makers, academics, industry leaders, environment ministers from across Canada, as well as representatives from the U.S. and Europe have been invited to discuss the negotiating platform for a joint Canada-U.S. climate change accord.

Conference organizers have noted that the outcome of the conference could form the basis of what may become the joint Canada-U.S. approach to the upcoming international negotiations leading to and at the Copenhagen conference as the world moves beyond the Kyoto Agreement on climate change.

Discussions will range from pricing carbon and a Canada-U.S. cap-and-trade system to modernizing the Canada-U.S. electricity system, clean technology and harmonization between Canada and the U.S.

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