

FOR RELEASE #09-144
June 11, 2009

Premiers Meet in Yukon to Discuss Strengthening Canada's West

WHITEHORSE – Canada's western premiers will gather in Dawson City next week to discuss issues of common interest ranging from strengthening the west's competitiveness to Canada's energy future.

The 2009 Western Premiers' Conference (WPC) will be hosted by the Government of Yukon June 17 to 19 and attended by premiers and officials from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

"The Western Premiers' Conference is an excellent forum for strengthening relationships with our neighbouring jurisdictions," Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie said. "Our continued commitment to work together through meetings such as this will help our governments build competitiveness and address long-term economic development."

Premiers' discussions are expected to include taking stock of the current status of the west, opportunities for growth through partnership, and issues of safe communities, energy and relations with the United States.

"We are pleased to be hosting this year's conference and bringing premiers and officials north to Dawson City, well-known for being an appealing, colourful place with a vibrant past that lives on today," Fentie added.

The conference is an annual meeting of premiers from the four western provinces and three territories. The Government of Yukon last hosted the conference in 2002, also in Dawson City.

For more information on the 2009 Western Premiers' Conference visit www.wpc2009.gov.yk.ca.

While in Dawson, the premiers will also meet separately with the Tr'öndek Hwëch'in, on whose Traditional Territory the conference is taking place.

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Contact:

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

Joanna Lilley
Communications, Executive Council Office
867-667-5341
joanna.lilley@gov.yk.ca