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Premier Fentie to Meet With Council of the Federation Counterparts

WHITEHORSE – Premier Dennis Fentie will represent Yukon at the annual Council of the Federation meeting in Regina on August 6 and 7.

“I look forward to meeting with my colleagues to address a number of issues critical to Yukon’s future,” Fentie said. “I anticipate practical and productive discussions and am pleased to co-lead the discussions on employment insurance and international climate change.

Discussions will focus on three main themes: assessing the effectiveness of stimulus initiatives; emerging smarter out of the current economic climate; and engaging the world.

Prior to the Council of the Federation meeting, Fentie and the other premiers will meet with leaders of Canada’s national Aboriginal organizations, including recently elected national chief of the Assembly of First Nations Shawn Atleo. They will discuss Aboriginal engagement with the federal government, education and skills training, economic development and the H1N1 flu virus.

“While our primary relationship is with Yukon First Nations, it is important that we meet with national Aboriginal leaders to ensure common issues are discussed and advanced at forums such as this,” Fentie added.

Some of the Council of the Federation discussions will build on progress made at the annual Western Premiers’ Conference hosted by the Yukon government in Dawson City in June. The meetings will also help prepare premiers for the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP15) from December 7 to 18.

The Council of the Federation comprises all 13 provincial and territorial premiers. It enables premiers to work collaboratively to strengthen the Canadian federation by enhancing relationships among provinces and territories and with the federal government.

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