

FOR RELEASE #09-200
August 31, 2009

Seventeen Countries Coming to Whitehorse to Attend Forums

WHITEHORSE, YUKON, CANADA – Seventeen countries will be represented at the 9th Northern Forum General Assembly and meeting of the Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR) being held in Whitehorse from September 1 to 3.

“It is both an honour and a pleasure to host the Northern Forum General Assembly in Whitehorse,” Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie said. “This is an opportunity for representatives of regional governments to share information about their social, cultural and economic interests, and to learn more about our region.”

Regional governments will have the opportunity to present and discuss challenges and address common issues.

“The members of the Northern Forum are delighted to return to Yukon, the site of our first board meeting,” Northern Forum executive director Priscilla Wohl said. “Members strive to improve the quality of life for their citizens by sharing knowledge and addressing common challenges such as how to implement initiatives that will help build sustainable economies.”

Over 50 representatives will be coming from North America, Europe, Asia and Africa. The majority of members are from remote regions in countries such as Russia that are experiencing similar challenges as Yukon. Climate change, regional economic development and innovation will be topics of discussion.

“Regional governments across the world have significant responsibilities for ensuring sustainable development within their areas,” Fentie added. “This is a timely meeting given the shift in focus to the North.”

The meetings include the Northern Forum General Assembly, which includes a business summit as well as the executive meeting of FOGAR. Delegates will also have the opportunity to meet local businesses and to learn about the Cold Climate Innovation Centre.

Yukon is a founding member of the Northern Forum established in 1991. Its mission is to improve the quality of life of northern people by providing regional leaders a means to share their knowledge and experience in addressing common challenges, and to support sustainable development and the implementation of cooperative socio-economic initiatives among northern regions. For more information visit www.northernforum.org.

-30-

Contact:

Roxanne Vallevand
Cabinet Communications
Government of Yukon
+ 867-633-7949
roxanne.vallevand@gov.yk.ca

Patch Groenewegen
Communications, Executive Council Office
Government of Yukon
+ 867-667-8968
patch.groenewegen@gov.yk.ca