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Northern Premiers to Meet in Iqaluit

WHITEHORSE – Territorial premiers will be meeting in Iqaluit on September 4-5 to discuss common issues affecting their jurisdictions under the theme “Northern Voices.”

Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie, Northwest Territories Premier Floyd Roland and Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak will take the opportunity to work collectively on pan-northern issues. Following up on the recently held Western Premiers’ Conference and Council of the Federation meeting, Fentie will lead discussions on employment insurance (EI) reform, climate change adaptation and health funding.

“My colleagues and I continue to work under the Northern Cooperation Accord which will be renewed for three more years at this forum,” Fentie said. “We believe there is considerable mutual benefit in the three territorial leaders continuing to address challenges and opportunities together.”

Additional items for discussion will include the Northern Vision and next steps on working with the federal government, research and education, renewable energy, and promotional opportunities available to the North at the 2010 Olympic Games.

“As premiers, it is our intention to continue discussions with the prime minister and federal ministers to ensure northern views are considered when decisions are made regarding our jurisdictions,” Fentie added.

The Northern Cooperation Accord, first signed in 2003 and renewed in 2006, was entered into by the territories to discuss issues of regional, territorial, national and international interest in a collective forum.

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