



FOR RELEASE #09-223
September 22, 2009

Yukon Forum Concludes

WHITEHORSE – The Government of Yukon and First Nation government leaders wrapped up the Yukon Forum today, where they advanced work on Northern Strategy Trust Fund proposals. Participants also agreed upon the need for a trilateral approach on an agreement regarding the new Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) to present at the Intergovernmental Forum on September 23.

“We discussed and approved projects that fall under the \$16 million Northern Strategy Trust Fund,” Premier Dennis Fentie said. “Together, we agreed upon a common framework for engagement with CanNor. The Yukon government will continue to support First Nations in concluding their Financial Transfer Agreements to further strengthen governance and capacity.”

“We continue our engagement with the Yukon government to ensure our First Nation priorities are supported through the Northern Strategy Trust Fund,” Council of Yukon First Nation (CYFN) Grand Chief Andy Carvill said. “CYFN will carry forward its unwavering support of our First Nation priorities during the discussions on CanNor with Minister Strahl.”

A total of 31 projects were approved from 79 proposals that were submitted for consideration. The Yukon government will spend \$4 million to help upgrade the emergency mobile radio system (MRS). First Nations will invest \$4 million in two programs to collect, analyze and store Yukon First Nation statistical information and to revitalize Yukon First Nation languages.

The remaining \$8 million has been allocated by a joint committee of senior officials from Yukon and First Nations governments.

“Selected projects will be led by First Nations or by Yukon government or together,” Fentie added. “The Northern Strategy Trust Fund is an excellent example of what happens when we work together toward mutual goals to bring lasting benefits to Yukoners.”

Under the Northern Strategy Trust Fund framework, third parties, such as non-government organizations are also able to bring project proposals forward.

The Northern Strategy Trust Fund provided money for projects from 2006 to 2009. For more information about the Northern Strategy Trust, visit www.eco.gov.yk.ca/northern_strategy_trust.html.

-30-

Four-page attachment: List of projects approved under the Northern Strategy Trust Fund.

Contact:

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

Pauline Frost
Director of Self-Government Secretariat
Council of Yukon First Nations
867-393-9219
pauline.frost@cyfn.net

Backgrounder: 2009 Projects for Northern Strategy Trust Fund

Project Title	Lead	Amount	Short Description of Proposed Project
Cultural and Ecosystem Assessment: a Decision Support Tool Kit for First Nations	Ta'an Kwäch'än Council	\$196,300	Develop practical, user friendly maps that are understood and used by a broad range of people from Elders and other traditional land users to political leaders, First Nation planners and outside agencies.
Enhancing the Participation of First Nation Governments in the Adaptive Management Framework for Yukon Placer Mining	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	\$350,000	Training sessions over two years to provide staff with the background and skills to conduct sampling, and data analysis. for aquatic health and water quality monitoring.
White River First Nation and Yukon First Nation Heritage Group Implementation Governance Project – Phase 2	White River First Nation	\$173,188	Implementation of White River First Nation governance status; establishing necessary policies and protocols.
Yukon Mine Training Association	The First Nations of Vuntut Gwitchin, Liard, Taku River Tlingit, Carcross / Tagish, Teslin and Selkirk, and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources	\$500,000	A “Training-to-Employment” project to close the gap between human resource needs of new and expanding mining developments and the potential labour pool in Yukon. Extension of the previously funded Training Trust Fund.
Land-Based Healing Facilities – Phase 2	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	\$300,000	Second part of study to look at a treatment resource and part of the implementation of the Yukon government Correctional Redevelopment Strategic Plan.
On-the-Job Resource Management Training for Yukon First Nation	The Public Service Commission and the Department of Energy, Mines and	\$500,000	On-the-job resource management training for up to five First Nation candidates in mining industry.

Candidates	Resources		
Collection of Kwanlin Dün First Nation Oral Histories	Kwanlin Dün First Nation	\$195,000	Conduct literature review, assembly existing oral history data in mapped form, and conduct an archeological survey, excavations, and reports of Michie / McClintock area.
Building Human Resource Capacity for Today and Tomorrow	Teslin Tlingit Council	\$350,000	Develop capacity to deliver services, manage fiduciary responsibilities of government.
Northern Institute of Justice (first year funding)	Carcross / Tagish First Nation and the Department of Justice	\$150,000	To establish a Northern Institute of Justice, which will consolidate, coordinate, develop and deliver justice-related training, education and research needs for Yukon public and First Nations governments, and agencies, non-government organizations, private sector, and others.
Range Road Dump Reclamation and Re-vegetation	Ta'an Kwäch'än Council	\$200,000	Remediation of landscaping to prevent erosion and disruption at the reclamation site.
Walking Together to Revitalize and Recognize Yukon First Nation Languages	Kluane First Nation	\$2,539,050	Priority project identified by First Nations
Yukon First Nations Statistic Agency	Carcross / Tagish First Nation	\$1,460,950	Priority project identified by First Nations
Yukon First Nation Human Rights Model and Process	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	\$150,000	Further understanding of the processes, legislative and constitutional framework by which FN human rights issues may now and in the future be addressed.

Needs and Service Gaps Study	The departments of Health and Social Services, and Justice	\$201,000	Study to identify innovative best practices for addressing health and legal issues identified with chronic use of alcohol.
Managing Spot Land Applications in the Teslin Area	Teslin Tlingit Council and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources	\$600,000	Development of 19 recreational lots at Little Teslin Lake.
Four Winds Family and Community Literacy	Teslin Tlingit Council and the Department of Education	\$264,463	Further development and operation of a culturally–inclusive family literacy centre to assist in increasing literacy and essential skills.
People’s Place – Dena Koue and Sustainable Subdivision Feasibility Study	Ross River Dena Council	\$30,000	Completion of detailed engineering feasibility and environmental assessment of development.
Land Based Experiential Education Proposal	Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Department of Education	\$150,000	Provide a rural First Nation experiential model for Kindergarten to Grade 9 with emphasis on First Nation culture while meeting educational needs, using collaborative process.
Yukon Water and Wastewater Operator Program	Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Department of Community Services	\$450,000	Continue development, piloting and delivery of training, certification and capacity building program for water and wastewater operators in Yukon.
First Nation Telehealth Expansion Project – Phase 3	The Department of Health and Social Services	\$600,000	Expansion of Telehealth capabilities to the remaining 12 First Nation sites.
Mitigating the Impacts of the Bark Beetle Outbreak in Champagne and Aishihik First Nations’ Traditional	Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Department of Energy, Mines and	\$350,000	Reduction of forest fuels in affected communities, restoration of access to areas of cultural importance, support development and capacity for forest-

Territory	Resources		based enterprises.
Resource Planning in the Ross River Traditional Use Area	Ross River Dena Council and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources	\$300,000	To develop a resource plan for the traditional use area, develop capacity in northern communities through an outdoor education program of environmental management and cultural awareness.
First Nation Comprehensive Public Policy Framework	Champagne and Aishihik First Nations	\$300,000	To define the First Nation government's policy including constitution, legislation, regulations, policies and directives – leading to refine the policy development process and framework.
Organizational and Capacity Development Initiative	First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Executive Council Office	\$300,000	Build capacity, restructure governance and administrative processes to provide program and service delivery to their citizens; implementation of key recommendations from the assessment.
Heritage and Culture Capacity Development Initiative	Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Department of Tourism and Culture	\$500,000	Development of a Yukon-based training program to address capacity shortfalls in heritage and cultural resources.
Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre	The Department of Economic Development	\$375,000	Several research and technology projects relating to energy and environment.
Little Salmon / Carmacks First Nation Traditional Governance Project	Little Salmon / Carmacks First Nation	\$300,000	Gather, compile and preserve Northern Tutchone Traditional Governance information.
Implementation of Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summits (YAWS) Recommendations	14 First Nations and the Yukon government Women's	\$450,000	Continued implementation of recommendations from the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summits.

	Directorate		
Northern Tutchone Council Mandate Review and Implementation	Selkirk First Nation	\$100,000	Enhancing cooperation, sharing resources and increasing capacity of member First Nations and citizens.
Capital Asset Management and Reporting System	Selkirk First Nation	\$150,000	To establish a mechanism to better identify and implement new systems, help to reduce needs and associated costs of maintenance and replacement of existing assets.
Emergency Mobile Radio System (MRS)	Yukon government	\$4,000,000	To continue establishing the territorial-wide emergency radio system

– END –