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Yukon Supports Olympic Flame Community Celebrations

WHITEHORSE – Yukoners will be among the first Canadians to celebrate the Olympic Torch Relay as it passes through on its cross-Canada journey.

“The community spirit and pride of place felt by citizens across Yukon during the running of the flame reflects the values encompassed in the Olympic Flame: peace, hope, inclusiveness, equality, joy and fraternity,” Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor said.

Taylor will attend three community celebrations planned for Yukon. The Department of Tourism and Culture contributed \$75,000 to enhance the celebrations planned by the community organizing committees that have worked in partnership with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC), sponsors and partners.

The Olympic Torch Relay lands in Whitehorse today and includes a stop at Kwanlin Dün First Nation where there will be a blessing of the Olympic Flame followed by a city-wide community celebration at Shipyards Park. The final torchbearer, Ramesh Ferris, will run the Olympic Flame into Shipyards Park and light the cauldron.

The event features Yukon performing acts that will include:

- First People’s Performances – First Nations dancing and drumming.
- L’Association Franco-Yukonnaise – Performing arts piece featuring Yukon Francophone artists.
- Groundwork Sessions/Leaping Feats – Youth hip hop and breakdancing.
- Whitehorse Blues Allstars with special guest Ryan McNally – Rockin’ Blues with featured youth performer.
- Land of Gold: Jim Vautour, Manfred Janssen and Grant Simpson – Iconic Yukon performers.
- Appearances by special guests.

November 4, the Olympic Flame travels to Dawson, where students from Robert Service High School will video-tape the running of the flame through the community. Celebrations will culminate in a Klondike spirit celebration at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre.

Later that day, the Olympic Flame arrives in Old Crow where torchbearers will run through the community to a celebration taking place at Chief Zzeh Gittlit School.

“On behalf of the Yukon government, I encourage all Yukoners to watch for upcoming information on when and where the Olympic Torch Relay will be in these Yukon communities, and to come and support the running of the Olympic Flame,” Taylor added. “This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for many to actually see the flame, to experience the excitement and celebration of the Olympic Games, and to show our support as proud Canadians to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.”

The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay is presented by Coca-Cola and RBC, and supported by the Government of Canada.

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