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Premier, ministers met with Alaska governor and commissioners

WHITEHORSE – Premier Dennis Fentie welcomed Alaskan Governor Sean Parnell and his delegation to Whitehorse today to discuss matters of mutual importance.

“We look forward to a collaborative working relationship with Governor Parnell, continuing what was established with past Alaskan governors. We share many issues of common concern to citizens on both sides of the border,” Fentie said. “It was a positive exchange on a range of important topics including Yukon River salmon, the Porcupine Caribou herd, the Shakwak Highway upgrade, proposed Alaska Highway Pipeline project, energy infrastructure and tourism.”

Yukon and Alaska last renewed their intergovernmental co-operation accord in 2008 and have had a number of successes arising from joint projects such as tourism marketing, Shakwak research projects and the Chisana caribou recovery project. The two jurisdictions are also members of regional forums such as the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) and the Northern Forum.

The premier hosted a working lunch with the governor, who was accompanied by his Commissioner of Fish and Game Denby Lloyd and Deputy Commissioner of Transportation and Public Facilities Frank Richards. Fentie was joined by Environment Minister John Edzerza and Highways and Public Works Minister Archie Lang. The premier and governor met separately in the afternoon while the minister and commissioners held their own bilaterals.

“We look forward to continuing this partnership with our Alaskan neighbours in order to gain mutual benefits from a wide range of shared initiatives,” Fentie said.

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