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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHERN PREMIERS SEEK FEDERAL LEADERS' VIEWS ON KEY ISSUES

December 21, 2005 – Premiers of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut have written to the four federal leaders seeking their views on key issues of importance for Northerners.

Premiers Dennis Fentie (Yukon), Joseph Handley (NWT) and Paul Okalik (Nunavut) have outlined four key issues:

- Adequacy of funding for programs in the North
- Strategy for northern development
- Devolution and land claims
- Outcomes of the recent First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues

Premiers said they believe these issues are important to the North and felt that Northerners should know each of the leaders' views. These are also issues that are not just significant for the people of the three territories, but have significant implications for all Canadians, they said. All of the responses received will be made public.

A copy of the letter is attached.

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