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**YUKON HOSTING REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM**

WHITEHORSE - The Yukon government is hosting a Regional Economic Development Symposium entitled “Unleashing the Economic Potential of Rural Yukon” Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon said today. The symposium and networking session, which begins today in Whitehorse, will focus on regional economic development opportunities for Yukoners.

“A planned approach to economic development will assist in making the most of existing community and regional resources, subsequently attracting opportunities and investment,” Kenyon said. “This symposium provides an opportunity to introduce regional economic development potential to stakeholders, provide networking opportunities amongst the regions and solicit interest from regions who wish to start regional economic development plans.”

The symposium features well known market economist Dr. Rosalyn Kunin, an expert in regional economics, along with other industry experts, followed by a regional networking event. It is an opportunity for communities, first nations, local advisory boards, chambers and corporations to share their ideas for regional economic development.

The networking session is focusing on identifying the Yukon’s economic potential, introducing regional economic development planning, and encouraging partnerships in planning at the regional level, all with the intent of facilitating a Yukon-wide rural economic strategy and key projects.

“Advance planning is critical for Yukon communities and businesses to take full advantage of economic opportunities,” Yukon Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sandy Babcock said. “This regional economic development symposium is the first step towards ensuring the regions have current, relevant information on potential projects and understand where the growth opportunities are to ensure they are prepared to maximize any opportunities before them.”

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Contact  
Peter Carr  
Cabinet Communications Advisor  
(867) 667-8688  
[peter.carr@gov.yk.ca](mailto:peter.carr@gov.yk.ca)

Samantha McCulloch  
Communications Analyst  
(867) 667-5341  
[samantha.mcculloch@gov.yk.ca](mailto:samantha.mcculloch@gov.yk.ca)