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## **RAISING AWARENESS OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION**

Whitehorse - Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon has been in Washington, D.C. this week as part of a Pacific Northwest Economic Region delegation meeting to promote issues of regional importance.

The three-day meeting with American capital's politicians and private sector representatives was intended to raise the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) profile and various important issues.

“The Yukon’s increasing role in the Pacific Northwest Economic Region group is timely,” Kenyon said. “The Pacific northwest region of Canada and the United States is playing an increasingly pivotal role as a transportation hub and source of natural resources for the growing Asian and American economies. PNWER provides a crucial forum for planning and managing development on an international level.”

Important items discussed during this meeting include energy matters, Canada-U.S. border security, the softwood lumber dispute with the United States and other trade related issues. While in the U.S. capital, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region delegation was also scheduled to meet with Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski, Alaskan Congressman and chair of the Transportation Committee Don Young, and long-time Alaska Senator Ted Stevens.

PNWER is a public and private organization formed by the five northwestern states of Alaska, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Washington and three Canadian jurisdictions including Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. Minister Kenyon is president-elect of PNWER. His one year term begins in July of next year.

PNWER members represent a population of 18 million people and a combined annual gross regional product of \$697 billion. Its primary goal is to increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region.

For more information, visit the PNWER website at <http://www.pnwer.org/>

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