

FOR RELEASE

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YUKON TO HOST DIPLOMATIC FORUM

WHITEHORSE – Premier Dennis Fentie is welcoming close to 70 of the senior foreign diplomats posted in Canada, known as Heads of Missions, to Whitehorse June 25 - 28 for the Diplomatic Forum 2006.

“Forum discussions will feature issues of critical importance to the North,” Fentie said. “Governance, climate change and sustainable economic development are just a few of the items on the agenda.”

The meeting is organized and sponsored by Foreign Affairs Canada and Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay, who will be in attendance. As well, Canada’s Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister for Sport, Michael Chong, and Speaker of the House of Commons Peter Milliken are slated to attend.

“We are always looking for effective ways of keeping the North’s interests present on the national stage, and this event provides the perfect opportunity to further that objective,” Fentie added.

There will be a Northern Day during the forum, sponsored by Yukon in association with the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Northwest Territories Premier Joe Handley and Nunavut Premier Paul Okalik will be in Whitehorse to participate.

The objective of the Diplomatic Forum 2006 is to provide the Heads of Missions with a strategic overview of key public policy issues faced by Canada, including issues of importance to federal, provincial, territorial and First Nation governments.

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