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YUKON ATTENDING MINERAL EXPLORATION ROUNDUP CONFERENCE

WHITEHORSE – Premier Dennis Fentie and Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Archie Lang will be in Vancouver next week to promote the Yukon's mineral resources at the annual Mineral Exploration Roundup, which runs Jan. 23 to 26.

"Roundup is the premiere conference to tell industry about our untapped mineral resources, and explain how the territory and this government can play a role in building up Canada's declining base metals reserves," Fentie said, who is acting for the minister of Economic Development, Jim Kenyon.

"An important component of our participation will also be to promote Yukon as a place to do business and highlight the new initiatives we are implementing to improve our competitiveness," Lang added.

Each year, geologists from the Yukon Geological Survey of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources present the results of their research and fieldwork to the mining and investment community at the Roundup. The department also promotes the territory's mineral potential at the trade show.

"Again this year we are partnering with the Yukon Prospectors' Association to assist them to promote their properties at the conference," Fentie said. "It is the hard work of local prospectors whose grassroots exploration efforts often lead to new mineral discoveries."

The premier and minister will hold a number of business meetings while at the Roundup to facilitate future mineral development in the territory.

The Mineral Exploration Roundup brings together over 5,000 participants and is considered one of the largest exploration conferences in the world. It features technical sessions, government and industry presentations, keynote lectures, short courses, a massive trade show and networking opportunities for the North American mineral industry.

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