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**TAYLOR AND KENYON TO DISCUSS TRAVEL, TOURISM, ENERGY AND TRADE ISSUES AT 16<sup>th</sup> PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION SUMMIT**

WHITEHORSE – Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor and Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon will take part in the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Summit (PNWER) in Edmonton, Alberta, July 16 – 20. Delegates will discuss the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, tourism, energy and trade issues that affect all regions.

During the summit, Taylor will present the Yukon’s perspective on the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative and border security. She will also participate in the regional tourism initiatives roundtable to identify common areas for action among PNWER members.

“The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region summit allows participating partners a unique opportunity to collaborate on a regional basis,” Taylor said, adding that PNWER attendees discuss not only the challenges but also opportunities affecting both sides of a shared international border.

“To this end, I will be speaking on the Yukon perspective with regard to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, something that will ultimately affect all Yukoners and travelers entering and leaving our territory,” Taylor added.

During the summit, Taylor and Kenyon are also scheduled to take part in a roundtable discussion on border security issues with Michael Chertoff, US secretary of Homeland Security and Stockwell Day, minister of Public Safety, Canada.

Kenyon will take over as president of PNWER for a one year term at the summit.

“Yukon is at the beginning of a long and promising new era,” Kenyon said. “The opportunities in Yukon are second to none as we move forward with the expansion and diversification of our economy. As incoming president, I am committed to encouraging Yukon and all other PNWER member jurisdictions to work together to effectively promote the growth of their regional and bi-national economies.”

PNWER is a public-industry partnership organization with private sector and public sector representation from the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington; and Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon. PNWER’s mission is to increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region, to coordinate government policies throughout the region, to identify and promote “models of success”, and to serve as a conduit to exchange information.

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