

FOR RELEASE #07-062
April 13, 2007

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT BUDGET TO PRIORITIZE YUKON PARKS

WHITEHORSE – Environment Minister Dennis Fentie is announcing \$395,000 in new funding to establish a permanent parks officer program and Celebrating Yukon Parks.

“We want to raise the awareness and profile of our Yukon parks by promoting them as world-class tourism destinations, and encourage people to be active and to rekindle their sense of wonder that all nature has to offer,” Fentie said. “In Canada, we rank second to British Columbia with 13 per cent of Yukon’s area designated as parks and protected areas.”

The new money will be allocated in the following ways:

Yukon Parks Officer Enforcement program: \$330,000

Celebrating Yukon Parks: \$65,000

The Celebrating Yukon Parks initiative recognizes the government’s progress conserving and protecting Yukon’s biodiversity, and increases awareness, appreciation and support for parks. The permanent Yukon Parks Officer Enforcement program complements this initiative by assuring safe, secure and enjoyable recreation in territorial parks and campgrounds.

“Yukon parks play a critical role in the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities,” Fentie added. “In addition, parks contribute significantly to our economy, with 300 full-time jobs and \$11 million in wages. Yukon campgrounds, recreation sites and new wilderness parks account for approximately one-third of the territory’s economic activity.”

-30-

Contact:

Roxanne Valland
Cabinet Communications
(867) 633-7949
roxanne.valland@gov.yk.ca

Barbara McLeod
Communications, Environment
(867) 456-6782
barbara.mcleod@gov.yk.ca