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**MINISTER KENYON HOSTS PNWER DELEGATION IN YUKON**

WHITEHORSE – Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon hosted a delegation of officers from the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) on a recent visit to Whitehorse.

Three PNWER delegates, from Washington State and Alberta, had the opportunity to meet with cabinet ministers, government officials and representatives from the Yukon business community during their two-day visit.

Established in 1991, PNWER works to increase economic well-being in the Northwest region; facilitate policy cooperation and coordination in the region; promote public-private sector communication; and leverage regional influence in Ottawa and Washington. By combining the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of each PNWER jurisdiction, PNWER represents the 11th largest economy in the world.

“This was an excellent opportunity for us to highlight the tremendous trade and business opportunities in Yukon,” Kenyon said. “PNWER’s role is to foster sustainable economic development throughout the Pacific Northwest region. This visit enabled us to demonstrate how we are our working to achieve this goal in Yukon.”

Kenyon is the current president of PNWER, who was elected at the annual Summit in July 2006, for a one-year term. The Executive Committee of PNWER is made up of legislators from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon, as well as private sector members from each jurisdiction. The next Annual Summit is scheduled for July 22 - 26 in Anchorage, at which time a new PNWER president will be elected.

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