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**NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS TO COME TO THE YUKON IN 2006**

WHITEHORSE - Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon is looking forward to hosting the Northern Development Ministers' Forum in 2006.

Kenyon attended the 2005 Northern Development Ministers' Forum in The Pas, Manitoba last week for its annual two-day meeting. The forum promotes the diverse interests of northerners and the accomplishments, contributions and potential in Canada's North.

"We are looking forward to welcoming the members of the forum to our territory," Kenyon said. "We are planning a priority project called *Knowledge North*, which will provide northerners and those looking for information about the North with a user-friendly, map-based Internet tool to access a wealth of data.

"*Knowledge North* will be particularly valuable to those who are looking to work, live or invest in the North, as it will include a wealth of social and economic information." Kenyon added. "We will also build on the excellent work already completed, including measuring the economic impacts of major projects, and improving access to information about the economic capacity of physical and social resources in the North."

Discussion issues at the 2005 forum included this year's theme: *Education, Training and Employment*, and ongoing projects related to northern innovation, strategies to maximize the local benefits of major development projects, enhancing public awareness of northern concerns, increasing investments in transportation infrastructure, and developing a forum website.

Ministers also heard presentations on Manitoba's Arctic Bridge Project, International Polar Year, and traditional knowledge consultations in Labrador.

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For more information about the forum, visit the Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat website at [www.scics.gc.ca/index.html](http://www.scics.gc.ca/index.html).

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