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GRAND CHIEF ACCEPTS INVITATION TO SIT ON CANADA RAIL LINK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Andy Carvill has accepted an invitation to sit as a representative on the Alaska-Canada Rail Link Advisory Committee. Alaska's Governor Frank Murkowski, Yukon's Premier Dennis Fentie and Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon also sit on the Advisory Committee.

The joint Advisory Committee will oversee the development of a work plan to determine the feasibility of the proposed Alaska-Canada rail link. Reporting to the Advisory Committee will be a Management Working Group where Yukon First Nations will also be represented.

"I am pleased to announce that Grand Chief Carvill has confirmed his participation in this process," Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie said. "First Nations have a key role in the Alaska-Canada Rail Link study and must be involved in development projects of this magnitude."

Representation from British Columbia and the Canadian federal government is yet to be confirmed, however, Premier Fentie says the Committee is prepared to move ahead immediately. "It's a large task, so it is important that work on the study gets underway as soon as possible."

Work on the detailed feasibility study is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2006.

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