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JOINT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW NORTHERN STRATEGY FUNDING PROPOSALS

WHITEHORSE – The Yukon Forum has begun the process of identifying projects for Northern Strategy Funding.

“Government and First Nation leaders are committed to moving ahead on projects that will benefit all Yukoners,” Premier Dennis Fentie said. “Projects will be advanced in the spirit of priorities set out in the Yukon Chapter of the Northern Strategy, which was developed in partnership with First Nations and in consultation with Yukoners.”

A joint committee comprised of senior officials of Yukon and First Nation governments will review submissions by government departments and First Nations. Proposals must comply with a set of principles that will ensure continuing long-term benefits to Yukon people and contribute to social, political, economic or cultural development, or to the preservation of Yukon’s environment, culture or heritage.

“By working together, the Yukon government and Yukon First Nations will ensure this money is invested in such a way that there is wide-spread, long-term benefit to the entire territory,” Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Andy Carvill said.

In April, at the most recent meeting of the Yukon Forum, leaders agreed on a Northern Strategy trust implementation framework that was developed by a joint working group of First Nation and Yukon government officials. The framework sets out a process for allocating the Northern Strategy trust fund announced last year.

Yukon First Nation governments and Yukon government departments are eligible to submit proposals for Northern Strategy funding. Governments may champion a proposal on behalf of a non-government organization.

Out of the \$40-million Northern Strategy trust, \$10 million is available for 2006-07. An additional \$15 million will be available for Yukon projects in each of the 2007-08 and 2008-09 budget years.

For additional information on the Northern Strategy’s Yukon Chapter, please refer to the following link: http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/general/yukon_chapter_northern_strategy.pdf.

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