

THE NORTHERN FORUM ACTIVITY REPORT

15th Anniversary



JANUARY - MARCH 2007

REGION IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Yukon, Canada



The Yukon is one of three territories that make up Canada's vast North. The Yukon has been a separate political and geographic entity within the Canadian federation since the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898. Yukon covers 483,450 km² in northwestern Canada. This includes Mount Logan, Canada's highest mountain, and the Yukon River. Yukon's northern border rims the Beaufort Sea.

Yukon's most valuable resource is its people. Yukon has one of the highest ratios of university degree holders in Canada, as well as a high rate of school completion and trade certification. Yukon's population is about 33,000 people. 22,000 reside in Whitehorse, the capital city. Yukon's 14 First Nations represent about 7,000 aboriginal people.

Yukon's natural beauty and historic and cultural attractions make tourism one of the largest economic sectors. Mining, forestry and agriculture are Yukon's key resources, along with traditional trapping and outfitting.

Yukon has modern transportation infrastructure including 4,700 km of roads and a year-round highway system. Whitehorse International Airport supports daily connections to Canada and the world.

Yukon offers a modern telecommunications network with internet access in most communities. Hydro-electric power produces over 80% of energy capacity, supplemented by diesel plants. There remains a large potential for further hydro and wind development.

Yukon offers strategic access to international markets – as the world's economic axis shifts to Asia, and its proximity (via the nearby, ice-free ports of Haines and Skagway, Alaska) provides easy access for the export of commodities and products.

Over the last decade, governance in Yukon has changed significantly as a result of aboriginal land claims agreements and the transfer of key federal programs to the Yukon Government. Yukon now exercises many of the same powers of authority as a province in dimensions such as land, water, minerals and forest management, and onshore oil and gas. Under land claims agreements, Yukon's 14 First Nations have control over about 8.5% of the total land area of the Yukon. All levels of government work closely together to support sustainable development of Yukon's natural resources and the protection of its pristine environment.

For more information, visit Yukon's website:

<http://www.gov.yk.ca>

Premier: Dennis FENTIE

Premier Fentie is the Minister of the Executive Council Office, including Devolution, Land Claims, and Youth Directorate. He also serves as the Minister of Finance and Minister of Environment.

Fentie was first elected to represent Watson Lake in the Yukon Legislative Assembly in September 1996. He was re-elected in general elections of April 2000, November 2002 and October 2006. Fentie, first sworn into cabinet in November 2002, was re-appointed to cabinet in October 2006. Since June 2002, he has been the leader of the Yukon Party.



BUSINESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT: ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE CENTER

The Alaska Native Heritage Center is a premier cultural center sharing the rich heritage of Alaska's 11 major cultural groups. Visitors experience Alaska Native culture first-hand through engaging storytelling, authentic Native song and dance, artist demonstrations, Native Games demonstrations and more. Unique opportunities to interact and participate create an enlightening educational experience for young and old alike.



The Heritage Center is located ten miles from downtown Anchorage and situated on 26 wooded acres. Inside, the Hall of Cultures, Theatre and Gathering place are home to many of our activities and demonstrations. Outside, guests stroll through six authentic life-sized Native dwellings surrounding beautiful Lake Tiulana and are introduced to the traditional life ways of the Athabascan, Inupiaq/St Lawrence Island Yupik, Yup'ik/Cup'ik, Aleut, Alutiiq, and the Eyak, Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian peoples.



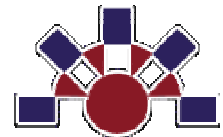
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PROGRAMS AND PROJECT PROGRESS

ENVIRONMENT

Flood Working Group

The Flood Working Group is scheduled to meet July 16 - 20, 2007 in Anchorage, Alaska. A number of regions will be represented including Alberta, Alaska, Khanty-Mansiysk, Krasnoyarsk, Sakha Republic, St. Petersburg, Vologda and Yukon. Registration will close by April 13th, 2007. The workshop will include a field trip to Alaskan rivers on the first day, and then four days of discussions on satellite imagery, mathematical modeling, coastal erosion and insurance/risk information.

For more information, contact Natalie Novik: nnovik@northernforum.org or visit the web page at http://www.northernforum.org/servlet/content/flood_working%20group.html.

Youth Eco-Forum 2007

The Northern Forum's next Youth Eco-Forum titled "Society and the Environment" will be held in Veliky Ustyug, Vologda, Russia. Registration information will be distributed by April 30, 2007. The event is scheduled for August 27 - 31, 2007.

For more information, contact Asida Prather: aprather@northernforum.org.

Brown Bear Working Group

The 6th BBWG workshop is scheduled for August 1 - 8, 2007 in Denali Park, Fairbanks and Anchorage, Alaska. The workshop will focus on brown bear management issues, customs cooperation against poaching and public outreach. It will also be dedicated to two important aspects of the working group's

activities: a genetic study of brown bears in the North Pacific, the first of its kind to gather samples from all regions and be conducted in one laboratory for consistency and a CD-ROM on brown bears, with information written by specialists from all the regions, photos, indigenous stories and point of view, maps and interactive information. For more information, contact Natalie Novik at nnovik@northernforum.org.

Snow Change 2007

The Snowchange 2007 Workshop on "Traditions of the North" will be held in Neriungri, Republic of Sakha from April 2 - 8, 2007. Snowchange 2007 offers indigenous and local peoples a unique forum of education, interaction and provision of culturally specific tools to design adaptation mechanisms.

Visit www.snowchange.org or contact Tero Mustonen at tero.mustonen@snowchange.org.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Northern Habitat

The Northern Forum Secretariat in cooperation with the Cold Climate Housing Research Center (<http://www.cchrc.org>) in Fairbanks, Alaska and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) will co-host a forum on October 28 - 30, 2007 in Fairbanks at UAF. Stakeholders from all the northern regions are invited to discuss technologies and best practices for housing and construction in the North. Speakers and panelists are being identified for the meeting agenda. NF regions are invited to submit their proposals.

For more information, contact Natalie Novik: nnovik@northernforum.org.



Northern Aviation

A training session for NF regional aviation firms and CIS companies will be held in Moscow June 19-23, 2007, hosted by ICAO, the International Aviation Committee of Russia and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The topics will be training of inspectors, cooperation between countries/regions in implementing ICAO changes, and financing airlines. Contact Natalie Novik: nnovik@northernforum.org.

SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Healthy Lifestyles: Substance Abuse Treatment Training

The "Advancing Alcohol Treatment in Alaska and Russia" workshop is tentatively scheduled in 2007. The workshop will be structured to provide information on advances in understanding and treating alcohol abuse disorders. It will involve seven days of training based in Anchorage, Alaska, for medical practitioners from Russia's northern regions and Alaska. The Secretariat is currently actively fundraising for this important training. For more information, contact Asida Prather: aprather@northernforum.org.

Workshop on Infectious Diseases

The Northern Forum and the Center for Disease Control are planning to hold an Infectious Diseases Workshop. The purpose of this workshop will be to establish an Infectious Disease Surveillance Network to monitor infectious diseases in Russia's northern regions. The monitoring system in northern regions would link Russia with the International Circumpolar Surveillance (ICS) for infectious diseases. Linking with ICS system would enable Russia to share clinical information and to connect with Public Health laboratories and institutes throughout the circumpolar region for the purpose of using information to assist in prevention and control activities. The proposal is to hold an Infectious Disease Workshop in Moscow, Russia, and in the planning processes a working group will be formed. The date has not yet been finalized. For more information, contact Asida Prather: aprather@northernforum.org.

Governance Conference

The Northern Forum Governance Workshop has been postponed, to be re-scheduled summer or fall of 2007 in Yamal-Nenets. The main goals will be to focus on a comparative study on different existing forms of governance and transparency in the Circumpolar North, to allow discourse on the existing theories of application and regionalisation in an area of globalization, and to design new, appropriate ways to apply governance for the benefit of local and regional communities of the North.

For more information, contact the Governance Workshop Organizing Committee of Yamal: Alexey Titovskiy a-titovskiy@yandex.ru or Carole Chambers at the NF Secretariat cchambers@northernforum.org.

Telemedicine Pilot Project

The Sakha Republic is now researching the purchase of telemedicine equipment. The Sakha Government is allocating significant funds to purchase and install the much needed equipment in several remote villages. For more information, contact Asida Prather: aprather@northernforum.org.

Indigenous Languages

Negotiations have started between the NF Secretariat and the Canadian government to organize a symposium focused on preserving threatened indigenous languages of the North in the winter of 2007-2008. The project has the support of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) and the Russian Association Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON). The goal of the symposium will be to present best models for language transmission and how to implement them in the regions. For more information, contact Natalie Novik: nnovik@northernforum.org

NF Calendar

The call is out to all regions to provide the Secretariat with drawings for the 2008-2009 NF Calendar, to be printed before the end of 2007. The deadline for the children's drawings is June 30th, 2007.

For more information, contact Natalie Novik: nnovik@northernforum.org



BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM

The Business Support Services Program (BSSP) now presents a new publication titled the Business Bulletin which contains information on NF business partners' activities, trade events and missions, promotional offers and investment proposals. For more information about BSSP or to submit business announcements, contact Anatoly Kafanov: a_kafanov@mail.ru or akafanov@northernforum.org.

SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

2007 Regional Coordinators Committee Meeting

The Regional Coordinators Committee (RCC) meeting will be held on April 16 - 18, 2007 in Moscow, Russia. The meeting will include a one day workshop focused on Northern Business Cooperation. NF business partners will attend. Speakers will include the Russian Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations. During the Regional Coordinators internal meeting they will review the NF bylaws and newly developed Rules of Procedures document. New project proposals will be received and reviewed, and annual budget and strategic planning issues will be discussed.

RCC meeting information, registration forms, as well as updated Bylaws are posted on the NF website: www.northernforum.org. For more information, contact Asida Prather: aprather@northernforum.org.

Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) General Assembly

The Northern Forum will host the next General Assembly of the nrg4SD in May 29 - 31, 2007, in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia. Included in the General Assembly will be a one day symposium on Economic Development and Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development. It is anticipated that over 20 regions from around the globe will be represented including: Sao Paulo - Brazil, Cape Town - South Africa, North Rhineland-Westfalia - Germany, Basque Region of Spain, Tuscany - Italy, and Brittany - France.

For more information contact pwohl@northernforum.org or visit the nrg4SD website at www.nrg4sd.net.

Declaration of the Regions on their Participation in the Governance of Globalization

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) brought together over 1000 delegates from March 5 - 7, 2007 in Marseille, France for the "First International Convention for a Regional and Local Approach to Development." The European Union provided strong support and several U.N. agencies participated. A ceremony was conducted for the signing of the "Declaration of the Regions on their Participation in the Governance of Globalization" within the frame of the International Convention for Territorial Approach to Development. On behalf of Khanty-Mansiysk Governor Alexander Filipenko, Chair of the Northern Forum, the Declaration was signed by the NF Executive Director Priscilla Wohl and Khanty-Mansiysk Vice-Governor Sergei Kuchin. The Declaration identifies goals for establishing the organization. Regions joined to identify mutual challenges and formulate solutions.

Regional Involvement in International Relations

NF Executive Director Priscilla Wohl attended and spoke at a conference focused on Russian regional involvement in international relations. Attending the conference were Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Messrs. Badarch, Ordzhnikidze and Biliatdinov as UNESCO representatives, Messrs. Aseev, Amirov and Sarychev from the Russian Duma, Senator Oleynik for the Federation Council, and numerous other V.I.P.'s. The conference produced a series of recommendations to the government of the Russian Federation including giving more powers to the regions to manage foreign trade and international affairs and using already existing projects with international involvement in the regions as a model for others, the Northern Forum being quoted as one of the examples. At the start of the conference, UNESCO and the Khanty-Mansiysk Administration signed an agreement of cooperation and opened a UNESCO representation office in Khanty-Mansiysk. For more information, contact Elena Berendeeva at pashinaea@admhmao.ru.



Arctic Council

The Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) and the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) meeting will be conducted in Tromsø, Norway on April 10 – 13, 2007. Website: www.arctic-council.org.



5th NRF Open Meeting

Chairman of the NRF Steering Committee, Dr. Lassi Heininen recently visited Alaska to discuss planning for the 5th NRF Open Meeting, scheduled for September 24 - 28, 2008 in Anchorage, Alaska. The Northern Forum Secretariat has been approached by the NRF to assist in organizational planning and meeting logistics of the meeting, as well as provide information to regions interested in participating. For more information, visit www.nrf.is or contact Natalie Novik: nnovik@northernforum.org.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations

The Northern Forum is in the process of obtaining observer status with several United Nations agencies including the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and Global Environment Facility (GEF).



Arctic Energy Summit

The Arctic Energy Summit, an International Polar Year program on energy development and rural power as it relates to the Arctic Regions, is an Arctic Council project led by the U.S. in conjunction with the Institute of the North and the University of the Arctic. The Summit features a technology conference to be held October 15 – 18, 2007 in Anchorage, Alaska focused on 3 main areas: Extractive Energy Development, Rural Power and Sustainability.

For more information visit the AES website: www.arcticenergysummit.org or contact Ben Ellis, Managing Director – Institute of the North: bellis@institutenorth.org.



International Whaling Commission

The IWC Scientific Committee will meet from Monday, May 7 to Friday, May 18, 2007 in Anchorage, Alaska. It will be preceded by meetings on Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6, a special symposium on infectious and non-infectious diseases of marine mammals. The Commission sub-groups will meet between Tuesday, May 22 and Thursday, May 24. The Annual International Whaling Commission Meeting will take place from Monday, May 28 to Thursday, May 31.

For more information, visit <http://www.iwcoffice.org/meetings/meeting2007.htm>

Calendar of Upcoming Northern Forum Events

April 2 - 8, 2007

Snowchange

Sakha Republic (Russia)

April 10 - 13, 2007

Arctic Council SDWG and SAO Meeting

Tromsø (Norway)

April 16 - 18, 2007

NF Regional Coordinators Committee Meeting

Moscow (Russia)

April 24 - 26, 2007

Arctic Council SDWG EPPR Meeting

Svalbard (Norway)

May 2007

International Whaling Commission

Anchorage, Alaska (U.S.)

May 2007

Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development
(nrg4SD) General Assembly

Khanty-Mansiysk AO (Russia)

July 16 - 20, 2007

NF Flood Working Group Meeting

Anchorage, Alaska (U.S.)

August 1 - 8, 2007

NF Brown Bear Working Group 7th Workshop

Central Alaska (U.S.) and Yukon (Canada)

August 27 - 31, 2007

NF Youth Eco-Forum

Veliki Ustyug, Vologda (Russia)

September 22 - 30, 2007

VIII General Assembly of Northern Forum

International Cultural Festival

Khanty-Mansiysk AO (Russia)

October 15 - 18, 2007

Arctic Energy Summit (ION)

Anchorage, Alaska (U.S.)

October 28 - 30, 2007

Northern Habitat Conference/CCHRC-UAF

Fairbanks, Alaska (U.S.)